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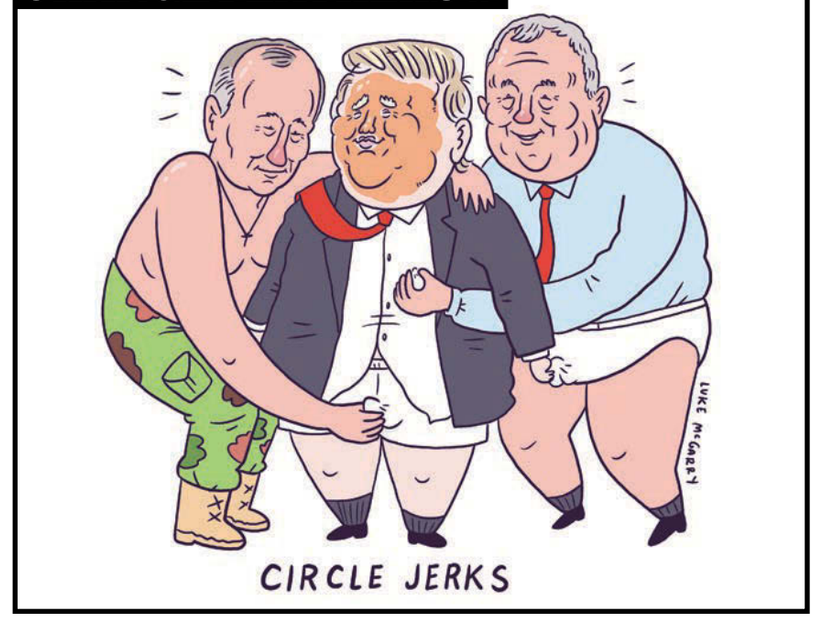

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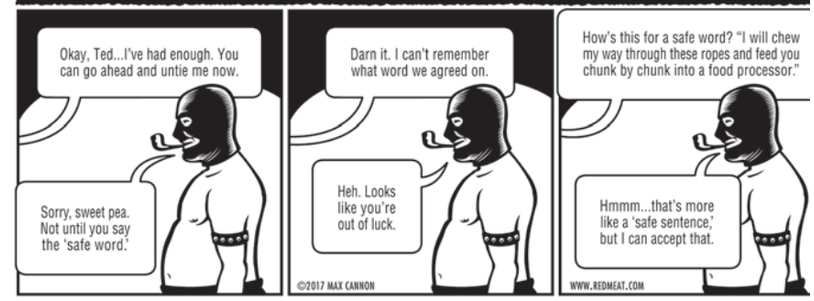

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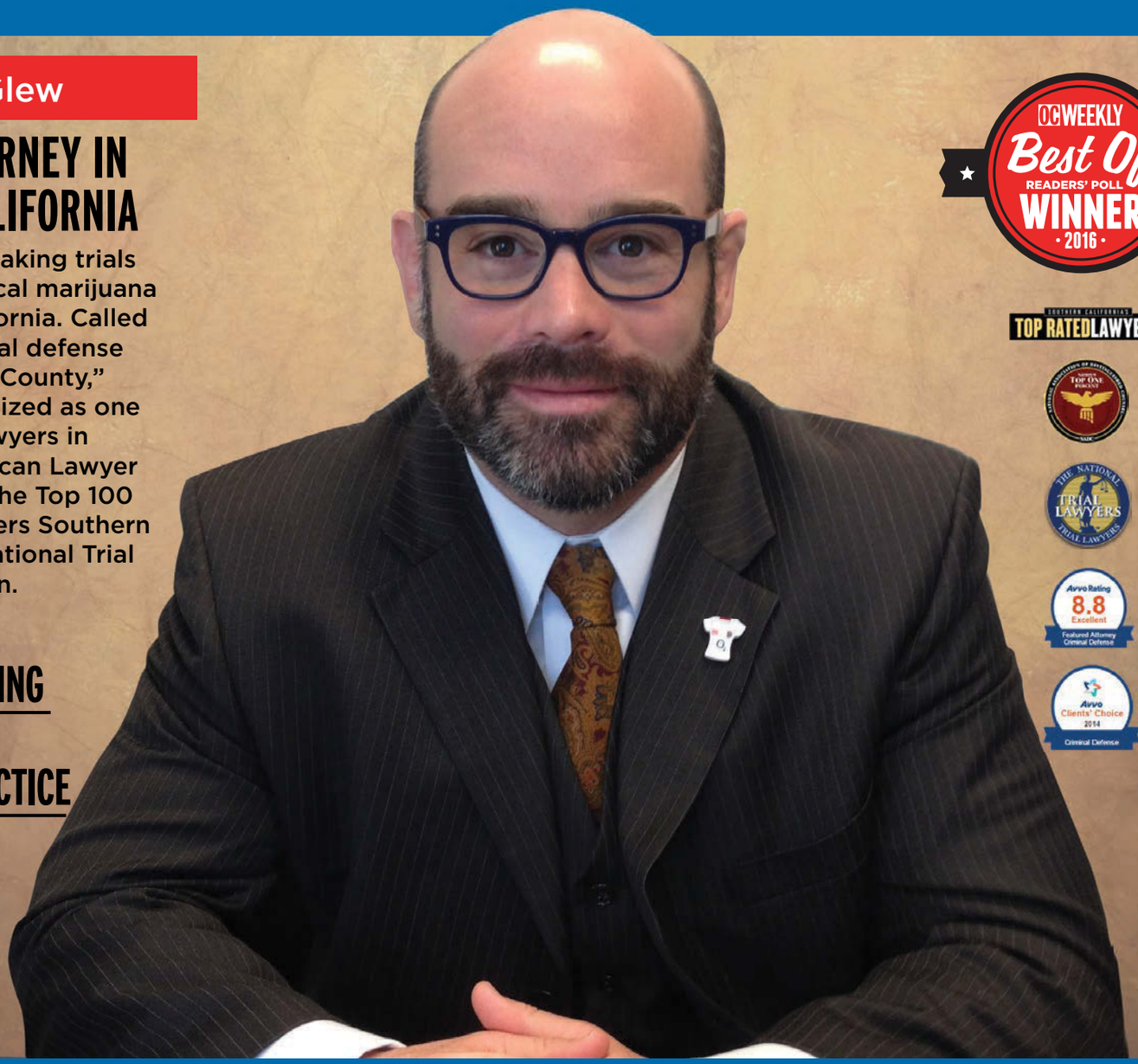

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60 Minutes to Detonation

DA Tony Rackauckas tells explosive snitch-scandal lies on national CBS broadcast

With the impending 2016 arrival of a CBS *60 Minutes* crew digging into one of the nation's most troubling criminal-justice-system scandals, Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas faced four uncomfortable options: one cowardly, one honest but painful, and two deceitful. Rackauckas could refuse interviews and pray the network's producers lost interest. The four-term, 74-year-old DA could also take the honorable course by coming clean and resigning office.

But those of us who've studied Rackauckas' dismissive scandal performances aren't shocked he focused his media strategy on prevarication. Huddled with his advisers in his 10th-floor, downtown Santa Ana office, the DA pondered the choice of partially lying by blaming the mess on Sheriff Sandra Hutchens or uttering a laughable fiction that absolved Hutchens and himself from any wrongdoing. He chose the latter, telling the *60 Minutes* crew eight lies in 12 aired remarks.

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When Assistant Public Defender Scott Sanders four years ago began exposing how prosecution teams secretly tilted criminal cases in their favor by employing unconstitutional scams involving jailhouse snitches, Rackauckas' office labeled the accusations "scurrilous." Superior Court Judge Thomas M. Goethals rejected the DA's request to ignore the issue in *People v. Scott Dekraai* and ordered special evidentiary hearings in 2014 and 2015. Both the district attorney's office (OCDA) and Hutchens' Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) insisted there was no jailhouse-informant program, so records of nonexistent snitches obviously couldn't be produced. Revelation after revelation to the contrary prompted Goethals to label testifying deputies as perjurers, wonder about the sheriff's moral compass and, in a history-making move, to recuse the entire DA's office from *Dekraai*, a death-penalty case.

For the first 176 weeks of the scandal, Rackauckas and Hutchens acted in lockstep, portraying themselves as victims of a smear campaign. But the marriage cracked in mid-2016. That's when Dan Wagner, the head of the DA's homicide unit and the often-wily prosecutor in *Dekraai*, claimed shock to discover OCSD records, a Special Handling Log, that confirmed the informant program's existence as well as that deputies engaged for years in the "non-production" of Sanders' subpoenaed agency records.

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, the federal constitution bans law-enforcement officials and their agents—such as snitches—from soliciting incriminating statements from pretrial, charged defendants who have legal representation. To sidestep this prohibition, prosecution teams here pretended for decades that snitches collected information without aid or such enticement as promises of jail perks and punishment breaks. They also asserted snitch placements next to government targets had been accidental.

Wagner conceded the obvious in a June 9, 2016, statement that deputies had moved Fernando Perez, a Mexican Mafia boss secretly employed as a paid snitch, next to Dekraai; that OCSD hadn't been forthcoming about records detailing snitch movements in the jail; and that the agency unethically hid documents Perez produced, evidence that would have revealed the illegal informant program.

Rackauckas' homicide-unit boss assured the public he'd written an "action plan to remedy" the legal issues because his objective was "to ensure any constitutional rights of defendants" are protected. "In the very near future," Wagner stated, OCDA would conduct inquiries into the content of the Special Handling Log and why it had been hidden for so long.

According to court records, however, the prosecutor, who worked behind-the-scenes to help deputies bury evidence, stalled that internal investigation for more than five months, allowing Daniel Wozniak, another Sanders client targeted by a paid jailhouse informant, to be sentenced to death without knowing deputies destroyed five consecutive months' worth of records that may have exposed additional cheating.

Bear with me on an important last point before we return to *60 Minutes*. Those supposedly "newly uncovered" OCSD logs detailed how jail deputies fabricated illnesses for snitches so their presence next to government targets in the medical ward wouldn't raise suspicions. For example, entries note how deputies were successfully "working" the ruse with one snitch "on the premise" he'd been "punted back" to a particular area by jail nurses for "asthma."

During the May 22 nationwide broadcast, Rackauckas already possessed those logs. He knew Wagner had months earlier acknowledged the informant program and evidence hiding. He knew of his own chronic use of Mark Cleveland (profiled in the *60 Minutes* segment) as a secret snitch to fool judges, juries and defense attorneys. He knew he couldn't bring himself to square his story with reality because, in truth, abandoning the sheriff, his partner in crime, means further exposing his own complicity.

RACKAUCKAS: BIG LIES REPEATEDLY TOLD SHOULD BE BELIEVED, NO?

PHOTO BY THE MEXICAN

Why was Perez, the prolific snitch who once bragged in a journal about "loving" his "job" working for prosecutors, put next to Dekraai in a jail system with a population of 6,500 inmates?

"Perez was not deliberately placed next to Dekraai in the Orange County Jail," the DA told *60 Minutes* reporter Sharyn Alfonsi. "Dekraai was put [in that location] on a nurse's order, and Perez had already been there."

Alfonsi responded, "It was just a coincidence?"

Without hesitation, Rackauckas stated, "It was just a coincidence."

Sanders, also featured on the show, said, "They deny, deny, deny."

When Alfonsi followed up, asking about Cleveland and the vigorous, historic use of snitches to win questionable convictions while hiding more than 20,000 pages of evidence in *Dekraai* alone, the DA provided a truth-bending answer. "Fantasy," he said. "It's fantasy. . . . The office did not withhold evidence. . . . It's getting around that there's some kind of a conspiracy or there's some kind of . . . willingness to violate people's rights or to not give people a fair trial; that's a false narrative."

Sanders' argument that neither OCSD nor OCDA can be trusted to seek justice over winning cases continues to strengthen. Goethals, a former homicide prosecutor, believes it's necessary to start a third round of special evidentiary hearings this week. He says residents have a right to know how the leaders of the county's two most powerful agencies are acting, especially Hutchens, who has defied his court orders for more than three and a half years. Jail for some badged individuals is possible at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Yet, the DA remains firmly in fantasyland.

"The public defender made a lot of allegations, of all kinds of criminal conduct, of terrible things," Rackauckas told *60 Minutes*. "And believe me—and if those things were true—we should be in jail, frankly; if those things were true, that would be very bad."

Justices at the California Court of Appeal hopefully will ponder the DA's gamesmanship. Last December, they backed Goethals' recusal order as lawful. Evidence proved prosecutors participated "in a covert" OCSD confidential-informant program that "violated the constitutional rights" of defendants and "withheld that information" from defense attorneys," the justices ruled. "The conflict here is 'real,' 'grave' and goes well beyond simply 'distasteful or improper' prosecutorial actions."

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¡ask a mexican!»

» GUSTAVO ARELLANO

DEAR MEXICAN: Not too long ago, you answered a question about the anti-Mexican slur *greaser*, then I read the info you provided for *illegal* and the N-word. I was wondering if you can break down for us *beaner*, *wetback* and *spic*, too? What are their definitions historically, who "invented" them, and what are their connections to certain regions?

Etymologically Curious

DEAR *GABACHO*: White supremacy invented these Americanisms, silly! *Wetback* came from the days when Americans thought Mexicans only came to *el Norte* by swimming across the Rio Grande—the earliest known reference is in a 1920 *New York Times* article. *Spic* isn't really about Mexicans per se; the Oxford English Dictionary attributes it to Americans and Brits ridiculing how Panamanians working in the construction of the Canal pronounced "speak." As for *beaner*, the earliest known printed reference is in a July 9, 1965, column for the *Detroit Free Press*, in which an Orange County surfer told a reporter that "not much good can be said about 'beaners' (Mexicans)." But the slur is descended from previous terms such as "bean bandit" and "bean-eater," which go back to the days of the cowboys. The common thread, of course, is the Mexican love for *frijoles* and the American anger that they can't properly digest refrieds without ripping a bunch of *pedos*.

DEAR MEXICAN: Why do Mexicans leave their cars in the middle of the street with hazard lights on while they pick up their friends/kids/drugs? My friends and I deemed this "Mexican Hazard Light Syndrome"—MHLS, for short. Those blinking lights are supposed to be used when a car is broken down and a person is in distress, not when someone is too lazy to park and walk. It's annoying enough when they do it on a two-way street and turn the road into an obstacle course—but when they do it on a one-way street, it's just unforgivably inconsiderate and stupid. My (Mexican) friend hit one of these cars once and decided it was the MHLS sufferer's fault, so he just left the scene without even leaving a "sorry, you idiot" note. I don't endorse this kind of hit-and-run behavior, but I'm telling that little anecdote so that the dumbasses who leave their cars in the middle of the street aren't too shocked when they find their '83 Buick Skylark in pieces. . . .

Cross at Lazy Mexicans

DEAR CALM: Patience is no Mexican virtue. We smuggle ourselves into this country again and again—you think we're going to wait until a spot on the street opens up? Nah, we'd rather annoy *pendejos* like you and your pal—and it worked!

DEAR MEXICAN: I was born and raised in Los Angeles. My parents were born in El Salvador, which makes me a Salvadoran American—NOT *pinche mexicano*. Don't get me wrong: I like you guys, and my *heina* is Mexican. My problem is with the whiter breed. Maybe it's that they're lazy, but they tend to classify all us brown folk as Mexican when in fact we've got a nice assorted pack on display. We Salvadorans have our own food (pupusas, not tacos) and our own language (*decimos "vos,"* not "*tu*"), and we're obviously shorter. Please tell all the *gabachos* to think before they classify.

Guanaco Guillermo

DEAR *POCHO*: No argument from me here, other than Salvadoran horchata is superior to Mexican and MS-13 [censored by the Mexican's publishers lest his head become a soccer ball].

ASK THE MEXICAN
at themexican@askamexican.net, be his fan on Facebook, follow him on Twitter, or ask him a video question at youtube.com/askamexicano!

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HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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THE DANA ROHRABACHER READER

A guide to 21 years of articles on Orange County's grossest, whiniest congress-loser

Compiled by Matt Coker, who contributes along with Gustavo Arellano, Paul Brennan, Anthony Pignataro, Nick Schou, Will Swaim and most especially R. Scott Moxley

We here at *OC Weekly* really get a chuckle out of newfound rabble-rousers who have suddenly "discovered" Surfin' Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-Mars) is "out of touch." And we're rolling at the fact that national media is now tripping over one another to "expose" the soon-to-be 70-year-old as a threat to our nation. Girl, we've supplied the ammo to form that negative opinion of the Mouth That Rohrabachered since 1995, and we would have done so sooner were it not for the fact that everyone's favorite OC-based infernal rag had not yet been founded.

So, to be clear, United States Representative Dana Tyrone Rohrabacher is a draft-dodging chicken hawk; a fashionably retarded wingnut; an asteroid-fearing, climate-change-denying free-market anarchist/libertarian/Yaffer; a folk-singing dope smoker who once wrote for the *Orange County Register* op-ed pages, then speeches for then-President Reagan, before parlaying the latter gig into a successful first run for Congress in 1988 with the help of his pal Ollie North and a pledge to support term limits.

He has not left the House since.

Rohrabacher's greatest claims to fame are having hung out with Afghans who fought Soviets before terrorizing the free world, having a bug up his ass when it comes to China and, in recent years, under very suspicious circumstances, becoming Russia's most ardent supporter on Capitol Hill. And through it all, he somehow got his dusty demon seed to spawn triplets out of his husky wife, Rhonda.

Never quite in tune politically with Californians outside his district—except the potheads, who call him "Weed Jesus" because they're stoned out of their box—or Republicans in his own party, Rohrabacher finally found himself on the same frequency as a U.S. president with the election of Donald Trump, who supposedly considered the congressman for Secretary of State, although Dana seemed to be the one blowing the most smoke about that possibility. For Indivisible types and others zeroed in on changing the 48th Congressional District because they have discovered to their shock—SHOCK!—that a fleshy mound of barnyard excrement has been representing their interests in D.C. for decades and now need to drill down on what hell he has wrought so they might finally, finally turn him out, we present this *OC Weekly* Dana Rohrabacher Reader, drawn from the more than 700 articles in our archives over the past 21 years. You can find all the links in the online version of this story. Enjoy . . . er, I mean . . . you'll see.

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

THE DANA ROHRABACHER READER

» FROM PAGE 11

"Your Tax Dollars Hard at Work," Dec. 8, 1995. In which our man convenes congressional hearings to protect industries from looming global-warming legislation. **Excerpt**: *"Liberal claptrap, trendy but soon to go out of style," Rohrabacher declared at a previous hearing on ozone depletion in September. Ironically enough, he uttered these words just two days before UC Irvine professor Sherwood Rowland was awarded the Nobel Prize, in part for his work linking ozone depletion to global warming.*

"Rohrabacher: 'I Am Not a Homosexual,'" Feb. 13, 1998. "Michael Capizzi—our district attorney—tried to plant a story that I am a homosexual," Rohrabacher tells reporters, joining the ranks of former New York City mayor Ed Koch and Eddie Murphy as a public figure who felt they needed to proclaim their heterosexuality to the heavens. Capizzi denies ever saying the congressman went that way. **Excerpt**: *"Rohrabacher is definitely a homosexual," one outspoken Newport Beach Republican has repeatedly claimed without offering any substantial proof. In the last election, anonymous individuals made similar allegations to the local media, pointing out that, for years, the congressman shared a house with another man.*

"Constitutional Cuisinart," Feb. 18, 1999. Rohrabacher submits a bill that would require at least one parent to be a U.S. citizen before a child born on U.S. soil is granted the same status—a direct challenge to the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. **Excerpt**: *Rohrabacher tells the* Weekly, *"We have become a magnet for all the pregnant women of the world."*

"Still Hazy After All These Years," April 1, 1999. California Attorney General Bill Lockyer dropping criminal charges against Assemblyman Scott Baugh (R-Huntington Beach) for a plot to plant a decoy Democrat in a 1995 Assembly special election pretty much wraps up a case that has been thoroughly dissected by the local media—except for one nagging detail: then-*Orange County Register* reporter Jean O. Pasco's effort to keep Congressman Dana Rohrabacher out of the scandal. **Excerpt**: *Pasco refused for almost three months to print a fact she knew to be true: that Rhonda Carmony—then a Rohrabacher aide, now his wife—was one of a few Republicans organizing the decoy effort.*

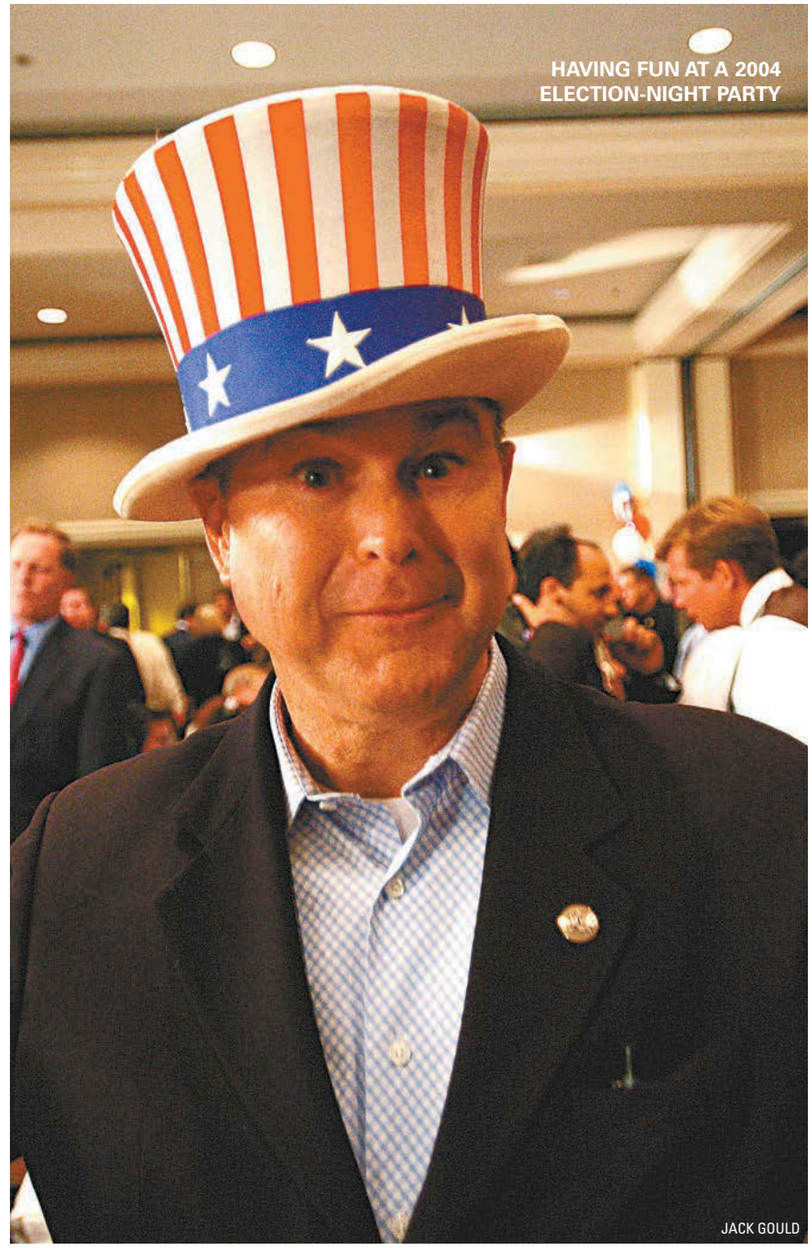
"Bush Victory Evidence of God's Existence," Dec. 7, 2000. Rohrabacher addresses a meeting of the California Coalition for Immigration Reform, the hate group that created Proposition 187, the Minuteman Project AND the Birther movement. He would go on to speak at their functions frequently over the years; this time around, he praises the Lord. **Excerpt**: *"I have no doubt—and there's no doubt in my mind as I tell you tonight—that George W. Bush will be the next president of the U.S.," Rohrabacher said in a Nov. 29 speech to a group at the Garden Grove Women's Civic Club. "George W. Bush becoming president is just further proof of the existence of God. There is no other explanation."*

"Dr. Frankenbacher," Sept. 27, 2001. Nostradana? Rohrabacher says he had a premonition the day before that something bad was going to happen on Sept. 11, 2001, because of the assassination of the Taliban's greatest internal enemy, the Afghan warlord Ahmed Shah Massoud. **Excerpt**: *There is wicked irony in the fact that it is Rohrabacher who believes he can read the actions of Afghanistan's most unstable and dangerous personalities—because it was Rohrabacher who spent much of his young policy-wonk days during the anti-Camelot of the Reagan administration helping to arm many of the very Afghan veterans now accused of carrying out the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil.*

"Rogue Statesman," Sept. 5, 2002. Federal documents reviewed by the *Weekly* show that Rohrabacher maintained a cordial, behind-the-scenes relationship with Osama bin Laden's associates in the Middle East—even while he mouthed his most severe anti-Taliban comments at public forums across the U.S. There's worse: Despite the federal Logan Act ban on unauthorized individual attempts to conduct American foreign policy, the congressman dangerously acted as a self-appointed Secretary of State, constructing what foreign-affairs experts call a "dual tract" policy with the Taliban. **Excerpt**: *A veteran U.S. foreign-policy expert told the* Weekly, *"If Dana's right-wing fans knew the truth about his actual, working relationship with the Taliban and its representatives in the Middle East and in the United States, they wouldn't be so happy."*

WITH THE REVEREND LOU SHELDON

JACK GOULD



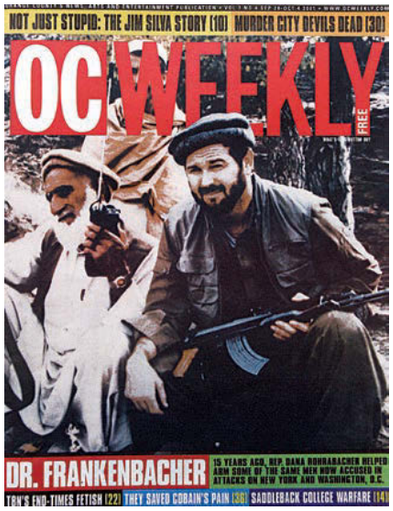
HAVING FUN AT A 2004 ELECTION-NIGHT PARTY

JACK GOULD

"Rohrabacher Gets a Taste of the Lash," Oct. 28, 2004. Dana gets pounded during a candidates' forum. **Excerpt**: *"I hope you've learned tonight that I'm a creative thinker and I do a lot of work for the people. . . . Free enterprise and low taxes is the way! The U.S. is the force for freedom on the planet! We've got to build a better world!"*

"Drunk With Power," Nov. 4, 2004. In which our man seems to trade, shot for shot, with boozy bros at the OC GOP election-night party celebrating Dubya's victory over John Kerry. **Excerpt**: *In politics, there are few images funnier than Rohrabacher; nothing—not even an angry Bob Dornan—tops an apparently intoxicated Rohrabacher wearing a red-white-and-blue Uncle Sam hat and a drunk's smile. He grabbed the podium with both hands and stared at the overflow crowd as if trying to focus. Before he hooted and danced around the stage, Rohrabacher screamed, "We just saved America! . . . Kick ass! . . . America is back! Bin Laden is history!"*

"Mr. Rohrabacher Writes a Check," May 17, 2006. Producer Joseph Medawar paid $23,000 for a movie script by Rohrabacher, who also assisted in making connections in D.C.—before Medawar pleaded guilty to swindling "about 50 investors" out of "roughly $3.4 million." Rohrabacher eventually returned it. **Excerpt**: *Of course the real victim in all this is the moviegoing public, whose chances of ever seeing* Baja, *the Rohrabacher cinematic epic Medawar optioned, have been dealt a near fatal blow.* Baja *is the story of men doing very manly things with one another in Mexico. And while that does sound blockbuster-ish and exactly the sort of thing one might expect from Dana Rohrabacher, I must confess that* Baja *is not my favorite Rohrabacher screen-gem-in-waiting. That honor belongs to his script titled* The French Doctoresse, *"a romance set during the French Resistance," which,*



as The American Prospect*'s Sam Rosen notes, "raised a few eyebrows for its oddly positive depiction of Adolf Hitler."*

"Rohrabacher's Appalling Flatulence," Feb. 13, 2007. Didn't you know that global warming is not manmade, but rather the result of dinosaur farts? Dana does! **Excerpt**: *The question about the noxious gas emitted by thunder-lizards was part of the noxious gas Rohrabacher emitted during last week's Congressional hearing on the new [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] report on global climate change. The report spelled out in unequivocal language the role of human activity in climate change and its disastrous consequences. But the Surfin' One doesn't believe in the human role in global warming that scientists have so clearly documented. He don't hold with all that science and fancy book-learnin'. Hence, his kindergarten-level question about dinosaur farts.*

"Boy, Oh, Boy," Jan. 10, 2008. In which a $1.35 million civil suit alleges Jeffrey Ray Nielsen used his position as Rohrabacher's congressional aide in 1994-95 to molest underage boys. **Excerpt**: *The case grew stronger when prosecutors filed a second molestation case, based in part on the Virginia boy's statements to the* Weekly. *In December, after four years of angry denials, Nielsen finally admitted to molesting both youngsters.*

"Dana Rohrabacher Went in Drag to Solve Already-Solved RFK Assassination?" Sept. 30, 2008. Rohrabacher launches his own investigation into the Robert Kennedy assassination at LA's Ambassador Hotel, where he says he happened to be on the same tragic night in 1968. **Excerpt**: *Sirhan Sirhan sent Summer Reese, one of his lawyers, a letter telling her that "a Diana was coming to see him" at Corcoran State Prison. "Sirhan didn't know it was the congressman," Reese says, "because his visitor was presented as a woman." Rohrabacher. Undercover. In drag. Using the name Diana?*

"Dana Rohrabacher Praised for Saying the Sky is Falling," Feb. 10, 2009. The no-doubt-august Institute for Human Continuity hails Rohrabacher for seeking increased government funding to stop an asteroid from slamming the planet and obliterating mankind. **Excerpt**: *Referencing Near Earth Objects, Rohrabacher says, "However remote the possibility of an NEO striking the Earth and causing a worldwide calamity, no matter how obscure that may sound to some, is still a calculable threat." Funny, he does not see global warming as a calculable threat. Guess it depends on which scientists are commending him.*

"Make Sure Dana Rohrabacher Never Accepts Social Security," June 9, 2009. We find an April 4, 1969, *Los Angeles Times* article on a Young Americans for Freedom protest outside the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana, along with a photo with a caption that reads, "John Schurman holds a card for Dana Rohrabacher, head of the group, to burn." **Excerpt**: *Can someone out there ask Dana to make sure he never, ever uses a penny of Social Security money lest he be proven a hypocrite again?*

"Five OC Illegal Immigrants Who Did More to Better Humanity Than Dana Rohrabacher," May 28, 2010. Rohrabacher threatens Santa Ana College for trying to create a scholarship fund for undocumented college students. **Excerpt**: *Dana's just jealous because illegals in Orange County have done much better things to better humanity than he can ever hope to contribute.*

"Dana Rohrabacher Finds New Reason for Fear," Sept. 24, 2010. Rohrabacher suggests the U.S. military, after finishing up operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, pivot to . . . Burma? **Excerpt**: *Rohrabacher says the generals running Burma are seeking nuclear weapons, and though he provides no evidence to support his claim, he insists the threat is not theoretical. In other words, we have another reason to further boost Pentagon spending during a period of recession and astronomical government debt. This assertion might have more credibility if it didn't come from a chicken hawk who managed to skip Vietnam War duty when he was eligible to fight and who this year alone personally sought additional federal earmarks of $12.9 billion for Long Beach defense contractor Boeing.*

"Representative Dana Rohrabacher's Wife Took 50 Percent of Congressional Campaign Contributions," Oct. 26, 2011. Huntington Beach's congressman gave his wife more than 50 percent of the cam-

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

THE DANA ROHRABACHER READER

» FROM PAGE 13

paign contributions he raised mostly from corporate sources during three months in 2011, according to the Federal Election Commission. **Excerpt**: *Since 2006, Rhonda has collected more than a quarter of a million dollars from her husband's campaign coffers, according to FEC records. . . . During that same period—and while most of the rest of the nation suffered economically, Dana gave his wife a whopping 40 percent in raises.*

"Dana Rohrabacher Described as a Woman By Newspaper," Nov. 4, 2011. Remembering the time when *The Economic Times* described Rohrabacher as a "congresswoman." **Excerpt**: *We'd heard rumors that Rhonda Rohrabacher wore the pants in the family. And we did notice that the congressman/woman's cheeks have looked a bit more rosy lately but thought it was just the tequila overdoses. Did he/she have a secret operation? Is Rohrabacher now officially balless? Do the triplets have two mommies?*

"Dana Rohrabacher: 1995 Bill Clinton Blow Job Caused 2001 Terrorist Attacks," Jan. 6, 2012. He tweets late at night that President Bill Clinton's "sex in the White House" caused the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that murdered more than 2,975 innocent people. **Excerpt**: *Of course, Clinton's sticky mess with intern Monica Lewinsky occurred six years before the suicide-bomber missions, which—last I checked—happened more than seven months into the presidency of George W. Bush.*

"Dana Rohrabacher Gets Lectured for Lying on HBO's *Real Time With Bill Maher*," Jan. 28, 2012. Rohrabacher says on *Real Time With Bill Maher* that the president was gutting the military, only to be corrected by the host that military spending had increased under President Barack Obama. **Excerpt**: *When Maher noted that Obama had increased military spending each year in office, Rohrabacher shot back: "What planet are you on?" "Can we deal in facts?" Maher replied. "Give me a break," said Rohrabacher. "Everybody in this audience knows this man wants to [gut the military]." "No!" said Maher. "I know it's weird, but can we just introduce facts?"*

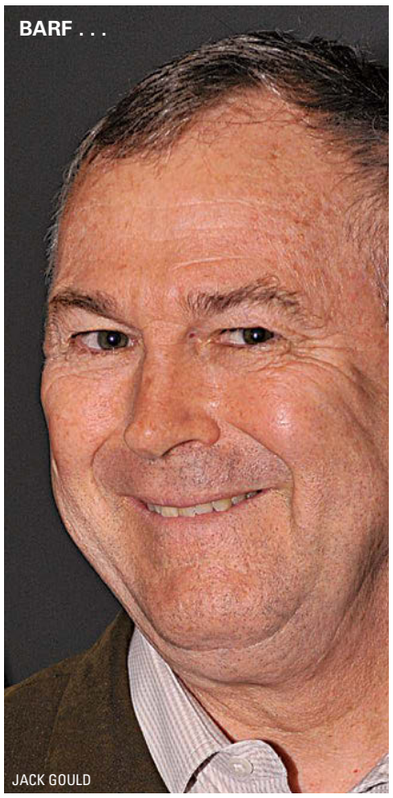
"Dana Rohrabacher Blames 'Rude' Female for His Gaffes on Bill Maher's HBO Show," Jan. 29, 2012. In the face of howls over his appearance on Maher's show, Dana blames a former MTV veejay and KROQ personality. **Excerpt**: *Never one to sink into the gutter and skip a chance to go lower, the 12-term congressman responded to national criticism of his performance with Maher by blaming the presence of a female co-panelist: Kennedy, the energetic Libertarian from Reason TV. "Kennedy's aggressive and rude interruptions threw me off," Rohrabacher—who has been involved in national politics for four decades—wrote in a Twitter message today.*

"Dana Rohrabacher Accused of Chewing Out 18-Year-Old College Student Who Visited His D.C. Office," Feb. 18, 2013. Who makes a teen constituent whose parents are undocumented cry? Dana. **Excerpt**: *Rohrabacher followed them out of his office, yelling and shaking a finger at them, at one point asking if they'd left his office their contact information and, when that was answered in the affirmative, saying, "Good, now I know where you live."*

"Was Representative Dana Rohrabacher Drunk During CNN Appearance on Government Shutdown?" Oct. 7, 2013. An appearance on CNN leads Wonkette's Rebecca Schoenkopf (the *Weekly*'s former Commie Girl) to post a video with the title "On Scale of One to Dana Rohrabacher, How Drunk is Dana Rohrabacher in This Video?" **Excerpt**: *The usually scowling congressman is giddy, his eyes are watery, and he seems to think everything is funny—like Otis on* Mayberry RFD. *Note in the upper-right corner of the screen the time of Rohrabacher's apparent intoxication: 11:22 a.m.*

"Dana Rohrabacher Is Dirty," Dec. 19, 2013. In which the four-bedroom, four-bathroom, million-dollar Costa Mesa rental home he, Rhonda and the triplets moved out of in August 2012 was left a shockingly disgusting pigsty. **Excerpt**: *A second-floor suite used by Dana's wife, Rhonda, as her bedroom contained a huge, mysterious, lubricant-like stain—something you might expect on the floor of a Hollywood sex club—that had seeped through the thick carpet and padding to tarnish a hardwood floor.*

"Rich Congressman, Poor Congressman: Issa and Rohrabacher at Opposite Ends of Roll Call List," Oct. 7, 2014. Rohrabacher lands at No. 5 on a D.C. insider list of the 10 poorest members of Congress, with a net worth of MINUS $924,000. **Excerpt:** *Rohrabacher? More like* Poorabacher. . . . *Although his spot carries an asterisk. One of his biggest liabilities in the calculation—a mortgage exceeding $500,000—was paid off during 2013. Reporting rules still require him to list that mortgage under his liabilities.*


BARF . . .
JACK GOULD

"Be Afraid: With Trump's Win, Dana Rohrabacher is Now OC's Most Powerful Republican," Nov. 10, 2016. Morning-after dispatch from Rohrabacher's raucous Election Night party, where he (rightfully) crowned himself as the most powerful OC GOPuke in Washington. **Excerpt:** *Will the man who's increasingly looking like Grandpa Munster and once left a rental home wrecked be placed on higher-ranking congressional committees as the national GOP gets taken over by Trumpbros?*

"BULLETIN: There's Finally a Way to Rid Congress of Dana Rohrabacher!" Nov. 30, 2016. Dana's self-promotion of the nomination to be Donald Trump's Secretary of State has a silver lining. **Excerpt:** *The only way the Orange County congressional delegation is finally going to rid itself of Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-Havana) is if Donald Trump nominates him for Secretary of State.*

"The List of Dana Rohrabacher's Convicted Friends and Lovers Grows Ever Longer," Jan. 18, 2017. The conviction of his former campaign treasurer informs a list of other past criminal cons tied to the veteran lawmaker—including his wife! **Excerpt:** *Lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty in January 2006 to influence peddling charges that rocked Capitol Hill, and he was ultimately sentenced to six years in federal prison (although he only served 43 months). Naturally, his longtime friend Rohrabacher rallied to Abramoff's defense. "They're portraying Jack as a monster," Rohrabacher complained to the Associated Press. "I see him more as a good person who's done bad things and has to be punished for doing bad things."*

"Mom of 2-Year-Old Knocked Down by Dana Rohrabacher's Staffer Speaks Out," Feb. 20, 2017. Activists demanding a town hall meet a locked door at Rohrabacher's district office in Huntington Beach. A 2-year-old is knocked down by the suddenly opening door. About 10 Indivisible OC members in the hall are riled up, and in the chaos, a 71-year-old Rohrabacher staffer also hits the ground. **Excerpt:** *The story became catnip to the Right after Rohrabacher issued a statement calling the protest a "mob action that not only intimidates but coerces," that the "holier-than-thou obstructionists will be held responsible for this outrageous assault," and accused them of "political thuggery, pure and simple."*

"Representative Dana Rohrabacher Claims Russian Authoritarianism Is Morally Equal to USA," March 10, 2017. In his brain, China's leaders are "foreign thugs" and "jackboots" worthy of contempt for opposing democracy and oppressing its citizens' freedom, but he gives Russia a pass for authoritarian practices despite Vladimir Putin's documented corruption, campaign to erode all civil liberties and likely ties to assassinations to quiet government criticism. **Excerpt:** *The congressman downplayed Putin's burglaries of computers tied to Hillary Clinton's campaign because the espionage produced "accurate information" to harm the Democrats and, besides, he claims, the United States secretly meddles in Russia's elections, too.*

"Dana Rohrabacher Goes on Fox to Defend Vladimir Putin . . . Again," March 29, 2017. Though there are unfinished investigations by the FBI, U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate into Russia's interference with the last election, Putin's Southern California buddy somehow already claims to know the truth. **Excerpt:** *Whatever the Russians did "isn't something that damaged our election process," Rohrabacher tells FOX News.*

"Putin Payin' Dana? Rohrabacher Claims He Man Crushes on Vlad for Free," May 18, 2017. His name turns up in a transcript from a secret House leadership talk about Putin paying the congressman and Trump, two of the Russian president's staunchest D.C. allies. **Excerpt:** *Rohrabacher's spokesman Ken Grubbs says his boss has been a consistent advocate of "working closer with the Russians to combat radical Islamism. The congressman doesn't need to be paid to come to such a necessary conclusion."*

TO BE CONTINUED . . .

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tuesday›
THERE'S A NEW DIVA IN TOWN

JOAN MARCUS

fri/05/26

[FOOD & DRINK]

Springtime Grub

Buen Provecho: Spring in Mexico City

Chef Luis Navarro of Lola's Mexican Cuisine has dedicated his career to studying the craft of the cuisine and indigenous ingredients of Mexico's diverse regions as he travels through Veracruz, Mexico City, Yucatan, Baja California and Oaxaca. For a special spring-themed event, Navarro has partnered up with Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) to host *Buen Provecho*, where he will showcase traditional and contemporary Mexico City fare with a cooking and mixology demonstration. The dishes focus on seasonality with fresh halibut ceviche, spicy chipotle albondigas and a refreshing prickly pear margarita. The workshop includes taster bites and drinks, and space is limited, so make sure to reserve yourself a spot—and if you're a MOLAA member, flash that membership card for a discount!

Buen Provecho: Spring in Mexico City at the Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach, (562) 437-1689; www.molaa.org. 7 p.m. $25-$25. —CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

[FOOD & DRINK]

* BERRY SCRUMPTIOUS!

Strawberry Festival

The long-running Garden Grove Strawberry Festival boasts a variety of games, celebrity appearances, a parade and music, but don't forget the real reason to go: to eat as many delicious strawberries and strawberry-centric foods as possible. Since 1958, the Orange County city has celebrated the sweet and tart juicy fruit, including tonight's sharing of the ceremonial strawberry shortcake. Be sure to also look forward to the Strawberry 5K, festival parade (with Grand Marshal Burt Ward of 1966's *Batman* fame, in line with the 2017 festival's superhero theme), Strawberry Idol Karaoke Contest, musical performances, carnival rides and contests . . . plus multiple chances to down as many strawberries as your two hands can grab.

2017 Strawberry Festival at Village Green, between Euclid and Main streets, Garden Grove; strawberryfestival.org. 1 p.m.; also Sat.-Mon. Free; unlimited ride tickets, $30-$35. —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/05/27

[FOOD & DRINK]

Good Libations

Newport Beach Beerfest

The organizers of this year's Newport Beach Beerfest have ambitiously upped the ante, curating an even bigger and better beachside bacchanalia. From expanding the number of breweries and food vendors to hiring top tribute bands the Black Eyed Tease, No Duh and Bass Punks, they've clearly topped 2016's stellar event. Expect popular breweries Evans, the Good Beer Co., Hangar 24, Left Coast, Lagunitas, Stone Brewing Co. and Elysian included among the 150 craft-beer companies offering unlimited samples. And if you're willing to splurge on VIP tickets, the lounge offers separate entertainment, early venue entry and 12 additional breweries to experience. With food, live music and drinks galore, it's not a bad way to start the summer festival season.

Newport Beach Beerfest at Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort, 1131 Newport Back Bay Dr., Newport Beach; www.newportbeachbeerfest.com. 7 p.m. $35-$50. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

[CONCERT]

* HANGIN' TOUGH

New Kids On the Block

Somehow, some way, these pioneers of the heart-melting era of boy bands have endured more than three decades. Laugh all you want, but New Kids On the Block (NKOTB) continue to release music that taps into the nostalgia of everyone who grew up with them in the late '80s. While the success of their recently released *Thankful* EP will never eclipse the heights they saw in their heyday, the album gives NKOTB a new excuse to hit the road. Though much of their touring calendar includes other acts from their peak, the Boston-bred quintet still show their fans they have the right stuff.

MORE » ONLINE
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New Kids On the Block at House of Blues at GardenWalk Anaheim, 400 Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583; www.houseofblues.com/anaheim. 7 p.m. $85. —DANIEL KOHN

sun/05/28

[HISTORY]

Nostalgia By the Sea

Charles Phoenix: *Long Beachland*

The king of California kitsch presents a special Long Beach-specific edition of his famously enthusiastic slideshows of found images from the 1950s and '60s. Expect pithy commentary on eye-popping pictures of not just the Nu-Pike, but also the stately old Municipal Auditorium, Googie aplenty, glorious neon signage, downtown before all the character got plowed under for condos and more. The last shreds of the old world are still sort of out there alongside certain surface streets, but here, Charles Phoenix delivers Long Beach in full-color bloom. Appropriate dress is encouraged—surely you can find something that fits on Retro Row?

Charles Phoenix: *Long Beachland* at the Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435; www.charlesphoenix.com. 11 a.m. $29. —CHRIS ZIEGLER

[THEATER]

Back to the Boards

Fences

Just months after its film version garnered Oscar and Golden Globe considerations (with an Oscar win for Best Supporting Actress Viola Davis), *Fences* comes to the Long Beach Playhouse. Written by August Wilson, the play debuted in 1985 with James Earl Jones as lead character Troy Maxson, a garbage collector struggling to provide for his family in 1950s Pittsburgh. While a talented baseball player in his youth, Troy could never fully join a Major League Baseball team because of his race, and the trauma and bitterness of that discrimination affects his relationships with his wife, Rose, and son, Cory, who has his own ambitions in the sport. Come experience Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play all over again with this powerful production.

Fences at Long Beach Playhouse, 5021 E. Anaheim St., Anaheim, (562) 494-1014; www.lbplayhouse.org. 2 p.m. Through June 17. $24. —AIMEE MURILLO

mon/05/29

[CONCERT]

Don't Slack On . . .

Hepcat and the Slackers

It's always the right time to lay the needle down on some ska, reggae, and rhythm and blues, but some days, you need a solid 420 moment. Hepcat and the Slackers are armed and ready to rock you steady with their soothing beats tinged with Latin, jazz and soul. Hepcat have been washing woes away since the 1990s, through good times and bad, and while there's no surefire antidote to the reality dregs, lifting your spirit with the common folk who feel the love is always a win. So, slip out of your sorrows, hang up your hang-ups, and dive into their sea of sensual sounds—your soul will thank you for it.

Hepcat and the Slackers at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com. 8 p.m. $30. —SR DAVIES

tue/05/30

[THEATER]

We'll Always Love . . .

The Bodyguard

The main appeal of the 1992 Kevin Costner/Whitney Houston film was Houston's musical performances, especially her rendition of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You." And now fans of the dearly departed diva can revel in their nostalgia for this and numerous other Houston numbers, which have been assimilated into this musical-theater adaptation. In addition to the film's songs (sung most nights by Deborah Cox, alternatively by Jasmin Richardson), classic Houston tunes "So Emotional," "One Moment in Time," "Saving All My Love," "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," among others, form the focus of Alexander Dinelaris' script.

The Bodyguard at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787; www.scfta.org. 7:30 p.m. Through June 11. $29-$89. —SCOTT FEINBL ATT

wed/05/31

[CONCERT]

IT TAKES TWO
César Rosas & David Hidalgo

Take two founding members of legendary band Los Lobos performing duet-style in an intimate venue. Add over-the-top rum drinks and tiki-themed décor. Shake, be stirred. Then rock hard, as César Rosas and David Hidalgo survey songs from their familiar if vast repertoire of punk and roots, Tex-Mex, R&B, cumbia, and more, all by way of East LA. Plus, there are new musical numbers in the mix, with singer/songwriter Rosas on guitar and Hidalgo playing just about every other instrument imaginable. When host Don the Beachcomber advertises this as an "all ages" show, it means one for the ages, a chance to see two icons up close. Bring the *niños*.

César Rosas & David Hidalgo at Don the Beachcomber, 16278 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, (562) 592-1321; www.donthebeachcomber.com. 8 p.m.; also June 2. $25-$90. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

MIRAMAX

[FILM]

Settling the Score
Kill Bill Vol. I & II

Revenge is a dish best served cold—and damn if Uma Thurman's Bride isn't serving the iciest dishes around. Get ready to experience Quentin Tarantino's bloody two-part saga of one woman's quest for vengeance on her attempted killers: underground mob queen O-ren Ishii, suburban housewife Vernita Green, one-eyed rival Elle Driver, desert hermit Budd, and the king hitman of them all, Bill. Watch Thurman's Black Mamba go up against all of them, plus legions of trained killers and unsavory characters in the most brilliantly choreographed fight sequences ever. Screening at the Frida Cinema (partly in honor of actor Michael Parks, and it's also one of the Frida's most requested titles), settle in for the two volumes back to back, and watch the swords, fists, knives and all manner of objects fly.

Kill Bill Vol. I & II at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422; thefridacinema.org. 7:30 p.m.; also Thurs., June 1. $7-$10. —AIMEE MURILLO

thu/06/01

[CONCERT]

Commotion By the Ocean
Musique Sur La Mer

Playing against the vibrant marine life swimming through the Aquarium of the Pacific's giant fish tank, world-class orchestra Musique Sur La Mer will perform a pops concert, with a special violin orchestra piece commissioned to honor the Aquarium's Pacific Visions expansion. Musique Sur La Mer was founded by Los Alamitos-born conductor/musician Marcy A. Sudock to bring concerts around the world and serve charitable organizations with every performance. At tonight's event, enjoy a special picnic-inspired dinner as you're serenaded by the lush orchestral sounds accompanying the Aquarium's underwater dwellers. It's a multisensory feast of a lifetime!

Musique Sur La Mer at Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, (562) 590-3100; www.aquariumofthepacific.org. 7 p.m. $50; RSVP by May 28. —AIMEE MURILLO

DREAMWORKS

[ART]

GETTING ANIMATED
'The Prince of Egypt: Looking Back With Wonder'

Tonight's monthly Laguna Beach art walk haunt should definitely include Laguna College of Art + Design's opening reception for "*The Prince of Egypt*: Looking Back With Wonder." With a long reputation of establishing designers in the film production and animation arts, the exhibit revisits alum Luc Desmarchelier's visual development for the 1998 Dreamworks-animated film *The Prince of Egypt*. Featuring insider notes and anecdotes from directors Simon Wells and Steve Hickner, this comprehensive show describes a pivotal point in the time line of animated-feature filmmaking as traditional and modern technology intersected for a new era in storytelling.

"*The Prince of Egypt*: Looking Back With Wonder" at Laguna College of Art + Design Gallery, 374 Ocean Ave., Laguna Beach, (949) 376-6000; www.lcad.edu. 6 p.m. Through June 29. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

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BRIAN FEINZIMER

A Pizza to Taco 'Bout

Centro Collective does fancy tacos and Roman-style pizza right

BY EDWIN GOEI

Go out for hip Italian in OC, and chances are you'll eat Naples-style pizza: thin crust, circular, the edges blistered in a super-hot oven. Roman-style pie, on the other hand, is rarer around these parts. And the difference between the styles is night and day.

First, there's the shape: Roman-style pizzas are square, not round. And they're not served hot out of the oven, but rather cut from a whole pie usually displayed out front. But the real disparity begins with how the crust is made. The dough in a Roman-style pie is allowed to rise slower and longer, often for 90 hours. And when it's baked in its oversized sheet pan, it's at a lower heat, around 500 degrees to 600 degrees, rather than the blast-furnace temperatures associated with the Naples style. The result is a thicker, yeastier, more bread-like product. Somewhere between pan pizza and New York-style lies its constitution—not too thick, not too thin.

That was the way Chad Urata described his pizza when I first visited Centro Collective in Lake Forest. And when I pointed at a pizza I wanted to try, Urata slid a spatula underneath the pie, using it as a template as he cut out a square piece with scissors. Urata then disappeared to the kitchen not only to reheat my chosen slices in an oven, but also to fry an egg that would top one of them.

As I ate, I realized that for the $10 I paid (which included a fountain drink and four squares of pizza), this meal was heartier and more filling than any Naples-style pie I could get in OC, and I was able to try four different pizzas at once—something I can't do at, say, Pizzeria Mozza.

Urata's wild mushroom pizza possessed the concentrated umami of the sautéed mushrooms. His fruity grilled-pineapple pizza with spicy coppa ham and jalapeños bordered on classic Hawaiian. And then there was Urata's creative departures. The Gilmore elevated the always-great combination of asparagus, fried egg and cheese. And the Frenchie—a Swiss-mozzarella-and-caramelized onion pizza—came with a side of French-onion-soup broth for dipping. It was well-executed *and* fun to eat. But I expected nothing less of Urata, who previously worked at Cucina Enoteca and is one-half of the duo behind Centro Collective. The other is Brent Omeste.

Urata met Omeste in Orange Coast College's culinary-arts program. From there, they began their careers at Orange County's finest restaurants, including a stint at Charlie Palmer for Omeste. Last year, when Omeste bought this pizza place in Lake Forest and realized it was actually two restaurants, he called Urata. The idea of a *taquería* connected to a pizzeria snowballed from there.

Omeste is as good a *taquero* as Urata is a *pizzaiolo*. In addition to the pizzas, Urata is now starting to offer homemade pastas such as cavatelli with pork ragu. And Omeste offers six kinds of tacos on his side of the restaurant. He fries a beer-battered fish taco so delicate, it's almost tempura. And his chicken tacos are so full of crispy wisps of meat, you forget the protein's not actually carnitas. And for a vegetarian taco that even a carnivore would love, a crisped-up disc made of fried cheese holds squash blossoms, mushrooms and zucchini.

His greatest taco is one that features pork belly slow-cooked with al pastor flavors. The belly is so well-made it could pass for a $15 appetizer at a fancier restaurant. If you're lucky, you might also see the pork belly used as the meat for taquitos, pairing the deep-fried crunchy shell with a filling that (finally) doesn't feel like sawdust.

The coolest things about Centro Collective are that it hits the sweet spot between trendy food halls and the workaday food courts and it's the first time the term "chef-driven restaurant" actually means something. It's Urata who takes your payment, and it's Omeste who makes your tacos and offers refills on the chips for your guacamole—the creamiest thing ever made from an avocado that wasn't a Vietnamese smoothie. Centro Collective's website has a "Meet the Chefs" section that offers their bios. But when you go to the restaurant, it's almost a guarantee. Say hi!

CENTRO COLLECTIVE
24531 Trabuco Rd., Stes. E & F, Lake Forest, (949) 305-5224; www.centrocollective.com. Open Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Meal for two, $10-$20.

HOLE IN THE WALL
» GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Mesquite Messiahs

EL POLLO NORTEÑO
528 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 541-6700. More locations in Santa Ana and Garden Grove; www.polloblog.com.

You can smell the burning mesquite at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Harbor Boulevard even before you see the newest location of El Pollo Norteño, OC's original Mexican-style charbroiled-chicken chain. This place doesn't mess around, as mountains of logs sit at the storefront window, ready to be burned down to plumes of white smoke as holy as anything coming out of St. Boniface Catholic Church across the street. For here is the gospel of chicken done right: succulent, smoky, slightly spicy and cheap.

I've been eating at El Pollo Norteño nearly my entire life; my family used to go to the original location off Grand Avenue in SanTana (knocked down long ago by stupid city redevelopment). But this Anaheim spot makes me excited for many reasons. First, it occupies the building that used to house Angela's Boutique, the store run by my *Tía* Licha for nearly 15 years. Second, the very back of El Pollo Norteño's parking lot was once a gravel lot where my dad parked his big rig. And this branch is the best of all, modernized for the mainstream yet keeping its *paisa* essence, meaning it's finally ready for the big time. Two flat-screen televisions entertain eaters, along with one of those newfangled digital menus Mexican restaurants seem to love. The menu goes beyond chicken to include great chilaquiles, a hefty breakfast burrito, even tortas.

But really, get the chicken combos—two pieces or three, or half a chicken, or the whole *pinche* thing, joined by two sides, your choice of flour or corn tortillas, and a grilled jalapeño that'll burn ya. The mesquite treatment leaves the skin golden, the edges transformed into chicharrones, the flesh as juicy as watermelon. Douse it in El Pollo Norteño's famous red salsa, an onion-forward concoction that doesn't burn so much as sear. Finally, wash it all down with Orange Bang!, the best drink in the world to go with charbroiled chicken—really, the best drink in the world! This is what I've eaten at least once a month for 35 years—35 wonderful, blessed years. Catch up to me, gentle *cabrones*.

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GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Plenty of Plantain

Aborrajado con bocadillo at Donde Adela

My choice for the most underrated hole in the wall in OC? Donde Adela in Orange. Not only does it serve Colombian food—a hefty yet subtle cuisine essentially unknown in *la naranja* even though Colombians make up the largest population of South Americans here—but the owner also actually cares to introduce her dishes to the mainstream. In the past year, the restaurant underwent a massive remodel to make it shinier and more accessible than ever before. That said, Donde Adela also rewards *paisas* who need a bite of home, so it maintains a list of rotating specials. That's how I found out about the aborrajado con bocadillo, a dish even my pal who's married to a *colombiana* had never heard about.

EatthisNow

» GUSTAVO ARELLANO

It might be the seemingly simplest appetizer around: a fried plantain stuffed with a sweet cheese-and-guava paste. But this isn't dessert so much as the Trinity: savory, sweet and salvation. Just one is enough to constitute a lunch. If it's not on the menu when you visit, ask when it'll offer aborrajado again—then order a dozen and watch your co-workers think better of you for once.

DONDE ADELA
1707 W. Chapman Ave., Orange, (714) 940-1701; www.comidacolombianaoc.com.

DrinkoftheWeek

» GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Brave New World at Mission Control

Orange County's first official barcade opened this month at McFadden Public Market in downtown SanTana. The food is fine—the fried-chicken stall Rooster Republic is the best, and the portions are HUGE—but I can live here forever with all the arcade games, from the original *The Simpsons* to that old one with the kangaroo that fights the monkeys to an awesome pinball selection (but dear Leonard Chan, bring down the prices to a quarter per play, *por favor*!).

The other reason McFadden is already a winner is Mission Control, the bar run by Jefferson Van Billiard in tandem with Aristotle Alstaetter, the finest young tag team since the Hart Foundation. They already have me hooked on the Brave New World.

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

THE DRINK
I usually don't care for tart drinks, but Van Billiard knows how to tame citrus like a pluviculturist. Here, he takes bourbon, lemon, white cacao liqueur and vanilla to create something that tastes like a manly lemon square—BOOM. Both Van Billiard and Alstaetter promise better things to come—but that's like LeBron James saying his past six years were just a prelude to the deluge. Go get 'em, gents!

MISSION CONTROL
at McFadden Public Market, 515 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (657) 232-3338; www.mcfaddenmarket.com.

Good Bánh Mì in LB at Last

KC's Bakery is the best Vietnamese bakery in Cambodia Town

DELICIOUS HAM-AND-CHEESE CROISSANT

SARAH BENNETT

A cultural hub for the largest population of Khmer in the U.S., Long Beach's Cambodia Town is also a diverse place. Drive down the mile-long stretch of Anaheim Street, and you're just as likely to see Cambodian nightclubs, grocery stores and restaurants as you are to see places selling Honduran baleadas, waffle sandwiches and good ol' American pizza. But one country has always been woefully underrepresented: Vietnamese cuisine.

Much of the holes in the wall across the city's small Vietnamese population specialize in either pho or bánh mì. The pho restaurants are scattered throughout town, with Pho Hong Phat the continual, ultimate best. For bánh mìs, there are two Lee's Sandwiches, both just outside Cambodia Town's border, and two locally owned shops, both of which have been nestled among Khmer-lettered businesses on Anaheim since before the 1992 riots.

While both My Le and Baguette Paris get the job done when you need a quick, cheap fix of bread, meat and pickled things, the owners seem more focused on value, rather than options, offering only a few items besides their understuffed $2.75 sandwiches. When Cambodia Town's third bánh mì spot, Lily Bakery (across from My Le), was abruptly closed down by the health department a few years ago, few were surprised. What has emerged in its place, though, is the kind of full-service Vietnamese bakery Long Beach has been desperately missing.

After a sleek (but not too fancy!) renovation, KC's Bakery opened in December with a long ordering counter; a massive open kitchen; and several deli cases filled with pastries, hot items and desserts, much of which gets snatched up early by the area's Buddhist devotees who pick up food for the monks on their way to temple in the morning. What's left by lunchtime remains on constant special: buy three paté chauds, get one free; buy three sandwiches, get one free; buy three Vietnamese crack coffees, and get one free; or get a sandwich and a coffee for a mere $5.50.

Unlike at its Cambodia Town counterparts, the sandwiches at KC's start at $3.50. A fresh French baguette is filled with the right proportion of meat to herbs, as well as that of jalapeños to a tangy slaw of pickled daikon and carrots. The bánh mìs come out of the kitchen quickly, rolled like white torpedos shoved into brown paper bags.

KC's also offers an entire menu of freshly made French-Vietnamese baked goods.

While you're standing at the counter waiting for your bánh mì, it's hard to stare into the adjacent cases and not also get some steamy paté chauds; crunchy fried egg rolls; slices of bell pepper-garlic bread; or any number of cookies, cream puffs and éclairs. The buttery croissants are an easy breakfast favorite; as flaky as they are flavorful, they're filled with everything from ham and cheese to chocolate to strawberry, each requiring two full hands to properly devour.

In front of the register sits pre-wrapped spring rolls, heat-at-home steam buns of various sizes, and Vietnamese desserts and cakes made by KT Bakery in Westminster. A boba drink sealer machine, currently used only for Thai iced teas and iced coffees, is yet another first for Anaheim Street—just one more reason why KC's is the best Vietnamese bakery in Cambodia Town.

LongBeachLunch
» SARAH BENNETT

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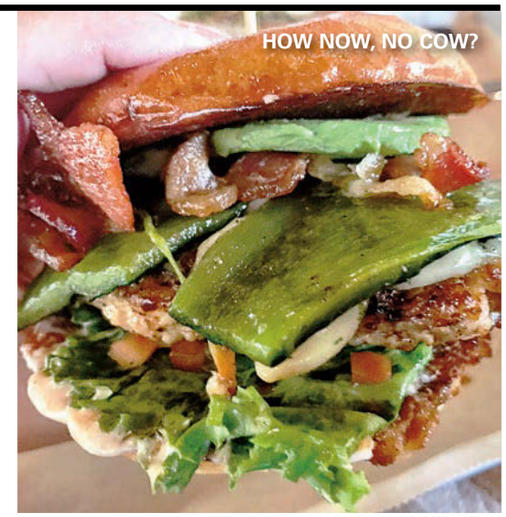
Where's the Beef?

Ten great non-beef burgers in Orange County

ANNE MARIE PANORINGAN

It's not all beef in the burger world, you know. Chicken, bison, ahi tuna, even vegan—OC restaurants know how to impress outside of cow meat. Here are some of our favorites.



ANNE MARIE PANORINGAN

Ahi tuna burger from Umami Burger
Held in place with gently crushed avocado (read: not guac), then topped with ginger carrots and daikon sprouts, we openly questioned this menu item until we took a bite. If a burger could be described as refreshing, it's this one. *Various locations; www.umamiburger.com.*

Prime house-ground Colorado lamb burger from Dublin 4
Instead of aged Cheddar, there's creamy goat cheese. Fire-roasted red pepper replaces standard-issue tomato slices. And pickled red onions are the ingredient we didn't know we needed. *26342 Oso Pkwy., Mission Viejo, (949) 582-0026; www.dublin4gastropub.com.*

Crunchy "Nashville Hot" fried-chicken sandwich from Jimmy's Famous American Tavern
If we were marinated overnight in buttermilk, honey and spices, we'd be as flavorful as this fried-chicken entry. Slap on that slaw, lettuce, and some bread-and-butter pickles, and you're golden. *Various locations; j-fat.com.*

The Sputnik from Rick's Atomic Cafe
From our archives: "A homemade veggie patty made with lentils, cashews, leeks, onions and mushrooms, it satisfies like a typical burger. Contain it in yeasty sourdough for complexity, then counter the earthy flavors with a mild slice of mozzarella. After that, the toppings are very Five Guys, allowing as much of whatever they offer. This includes, but isn't limited to, alfalfa sprouts, cucumbers and cilantro." *3100 Airway Ave., Costa Mesa, (714) 825-0570; ricksatomiccafe.com.*

Lamb burger from Haven Gastropub
This one time, we Forkers had a battle about who had the best burger, and here's what we discovered: "Every bite was as satisfying as the last. . . . Our fondness for Greek cuisine was all over this combination. Individually, the components were good. Together, we remained silent for a minimum 15 minutes while we inhaled it." *190 S. Glassell St., Orange, (714) 221-0680; www.havengastropub.com.*

Bison burger from the Counter
From style to protein to sauce and toppings galore, a meal here is one big checklist. Splurge on this meat, and learn why it remains on the menu. *Various locations; www.thecounterburger.com.*

The OC Burger from Burger Parlor
One bird we never tire of, and here's why: "Could it be the soft, yet sturdy bun that only Mahon serves? That's definitely a component. While others snicker at the sprouts and marinated carrots, we say, 'Yes, please!' No more guilt over skipping a salad. Avocado and provolone assure us the gluttony monster isn't lurking that far behind." *Various locations; burgerparlor.com.*

Veggie burger from Butterleaf
Found inside TRADE food hall, messy goodness is a thing at Butterleaf. Lots of avocado and sauce means all-around flavor. Worth the wait, for sure. *2222 Michelson Dr., Irvine; www.butterleaf.co.*

Thunderbird from Hopdoddy
It was a tough call between this and the Continental Club, but seared poblanos, avocado and Tillamook pepper jack made all the difference. We like having it at the bar, so our drinks arrive faster. *Various locations; www.hopdoddy.com.*

Classic breakfast burger from the Scratch Room
It's as if Jimmy Dean and In-N-Out had a baby. *2415 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 236-5613; www.thescratchroom.com.*

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Lazenby, George Lazenby

Documentary profiles the one-and-done James Bond

BY MATT COKER

SHAKEN, NOT SPUN

HULU

George Lazenby is elevated from trivia-contest answer and crossword-puzzle solution in Josh Greenbaum's amusing documentary *Becoming Bond*. Now 77, Lazenby engagingly explains to the camera his incredible rise from an Australian family that lived paycheck to paycheck to life as a humble automobile mechanic and later salesman to the role of a lifetime as James Bond in 1969's *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*—despite never having acted a day in his life.

It was literally the *singular* role of a lifetime because after having taken over the iconic character that Sean Connery abandoned, as well as reportedly being offered a $1 million signing bonus to star in the next seven Bond films, Lazenby walked away from the lucrative film franchise. That produced much head scratching back when it happened—as it does today by all concerned, including Lazenby.

To present the one-and-done actor's remarkable story, Greenbaum relies on some familiar and unusual cinematic storytelling techniques. His subject is mostly presented today facing a camera, often in closeup, more dashing than ever in his pressed dark suit, bright-white button-down shirt and full head of gray hair. There are, of course, photographs and moving pictures covering his early Aussie days through current times that the filmmaker strategically drops into the movie.

However, to depict many of the key moments from his subject's past, Greenbaum liberally sprinkles in scenes with re-enactors, most notably Josh Lawson (*The Campaign*, *House of Lies*, *Anchorman 2*) as Lazenby from his young adult years through his, well, becoming Bond. I must confess this almost took me out of the picture, especially during the segments in which Lawson scenes are right on top of actual footage of Lazenby. This is due to a phenomenon you may have also noticed: In footage and photographs from the 1960s and before, many people who were then in their 20s appear to be in their 40s. Lazenby, a male model who had just turned 29 when the filming of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* began, possessed (and still possesses) ruggedly handsome good looks that belied his age. Fellow Aussie Lawson, who is 35, has the softer face and demeanor of a second banana in a rom-com. Not that there's anything wrong with that; it's just not Lazenby, mate.

The distinction does pay some dividends in *Becoming Bond* because of the light comedic tone of Greenbaum's retelling of the Lazenby story and Lawson's ease and confidence on camera. There are also some winks to Derek Waters' *Drunk History* and winning cameos by Dana Carvey, Jane Seymour and especially Jeff Garlin, who simply must employ the same tone when he someday portrays Harvey Weinstein.

Once I become king of the world, the thing I would remove from *Becoming Bond* is the gratuitous female nudity. It would have been more fitting, as well as clever, to mirror the Bond films, which famously parade some of the most beautiful women in the world in ways in which you see everything except the naughty bits. (See the *Austin Powers* movies for spoofs of this method.) That said, *Becoming Bond*'s double-penetration sight gag was pretty funny.

Becoming Bond is now streaming on Hulu.

In other small-screen news, what is billed as the first made-for-TV opera—set to debut soon online, on local television and at special events from Fullerton to New York City—was actually born in Santa Ana. *Vireo: The Spiritual Biography of a Witch's Accuser* was composed and conceived by Lisa Bielawa, the artist-in-residence at Grand Central Art Center (GCAC). John D. Spiak, director/chief curator of GCAC, which is a unit of Cal State Fullerton's College of the Arts, ushered her project onto the screen, and the first two of 12 episodes, each of which are about 15 minutes in length, were filmed at the Yost Theater.

California's redwood forests, 16th Street Oakland Train Station, San Francisco's Alcatraz Island and New York's Hudson River Valley were among the other shooting locations. Talent from around the world showcased in the production includes the Orange County School of the Arts Middle School Choir. Also featured are some of the most notable names in classical music and modern opera, including director Charles Otte, librettist Erik Ehn, soprano Deborah Voigt, mezzo-soprano Laurie Rubin, violinist Jennifer Koh, cellist Joshua Roman, Kronos Quartet and the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

Based on Bielawa's research at Yale, then adapted and re-imagined by Ehn, *Vireo* shows how teenage-girl visionaries' writings and rantings have been manipulated, incorporated and interpreted by the communities of men surrounding them from the European Dark Ages to Salem, Massachusetts—all the way to 19th-century France and contemporary performance art. The eponymous heroine Vireo, played by soprano Rowen Sabala in her first prominent role, is a 14-year-old genius entangled in the historic obsession with female visionaries.

According to Spiak, Bielawa was specifically brought to GCAC in 2012 to develop a new work. "As part of our process, we invite artists here without a specific project proposal, then work with them through listening and discovery to help them to realize a possible vision for a project they are inspired to do through our institution," he says. "Through our continued conversation, the idea of *Vireo* as a TV series or webisodes arose, and I set up a meeting with KCET's Juan Devis, who was totally open to the idea of a collaboration, and the rest is history."

You can binge watch *Vireo* online (and for free) starting Wednesday on KCET.org and its partner site LinkTV.org. It makes its broadcast premiere as a two-and-a-half-hour special on the Emmy-winning arts-and-culture series *Artbound* at 8 p.m. June 13 on KCET and Link TV. There is also a free screening event at 6 p.m. on June 21 at Plummer Auditorium (*201 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton*).

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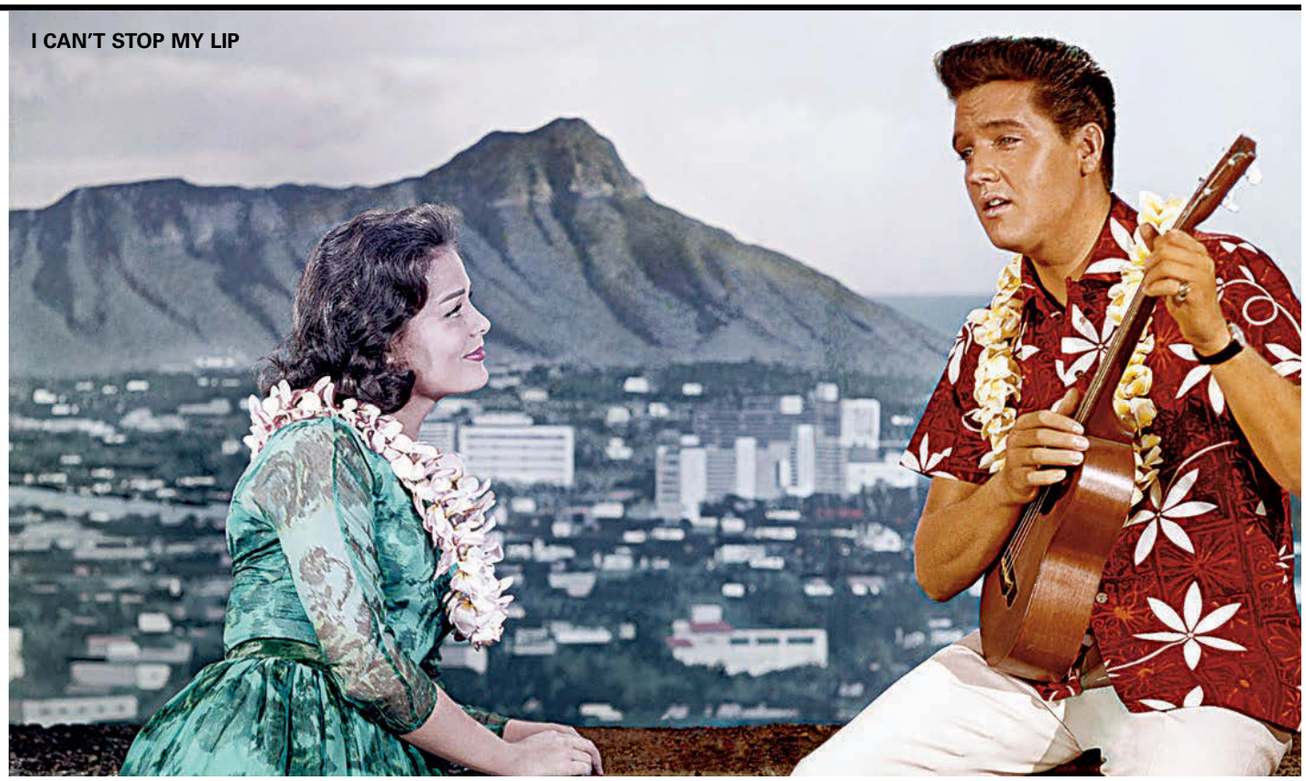
Aloha From Graceland

BY MATT COKER


I CAN'T STOP MY LIP

PARAMOUNT

Long Strange Trip: Grateful Dead Documentary. Directed by Amir Bar-Lev (*The Tillman Story*) and executive produced by Martin Scorsese (*The Last Waltz*), *Long Strange Trip* explores the fiercely independent vision, perpetual innovation and uncompromising commitment to their audience that made the Bay Area band one of the most influential musical groups of their generation. Candid interviews with the band, road crew, family members and notable Deadheads reveal the untold history of the Dead and the freewheeling psychedelic subculture that sprouted up around it. *Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435. Thurs., May 25, 3 & 8 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

JFK Remembered: 100 Years Later. Never-before-seen materials give a fresh new look at John Fitzgerald Kennedy's presidency. The Kennedy family and JFK presidential library participated in the production. *Regency San Juan Capistrano, 26762 Verdugo St., San Juan Capistrano, (949) 661-3456. Thurs., May 25, 6:30 p.m. $15.*

High Anxiety. If *Blazing Saddles* and *Young Frankenstein* were never made, would this 1977 Mel Brooks comedy be considered his best? I mean, if *The Producers* also did not exist. In this sendup of Hitchcock films (which apparently received some input from Hitch), Brooks plays a newly arrived psychiatrist at the Psycho-Neurotic Institute for the Very Very Nervous, where he tries to help a blonde (Madeline Kahn) get her father out alive despite two scheming staffers (Harvey Korman and Cloris Leachman). You'll never guess who assumes the Norman Bates role in the hilarious shower scene. *The Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana; thefridacinema.org. Thurs., May 25, 8 p.m. $7-$10.*

Blue Hawaii. With Orange County college screenings dried up because of finals, graduations and summer breaks, outdoor family films have arrived to fill the void. Up first is this Movies On the Lawn screening of the 1961 Elvis Presley vehicle about a returning soldier who opts out of the family pineapple business to work for his girlfriend's tour agency. Bring low-backed chairs and blankets, and take a picnic or purchase items from food trucks or the snack bar. *Orange County Great Park, 6950 Marine Way, Irvine, (949) 724-6247. Fri., dusk (but arrive sooner for a prime spot). Free.*

O Brother, Where Art Thou? In honor of Colleen Happ, a Frida board member and volunteer who is relocating to Canada, her favorite film rolls. It's also among the (many) best from the Coen brothers, who follow three members of a 1937 Mississippi chain gang who escape and set off for buried treasure—and cut a little ditty in a sound studio that unwittingly turns them into musical stars. George Clooney, Tim Blake Nelson, John Turturro, John Goodman and Holly Hunter star. *The Frida Cinema; thefridacinema.org. Thurs., May 25, 8 p.m. $7-$10.*

Poltergeist. This 1982 horror thriller—and *OC Weekly* Friday Night Freakout selection—is often misremembered as a Steven Spielberg joint, but while he co-produced and wrote the story the screenplay is based upon, it was *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* helmer Tobe Hooper in the director's chair. Hooper certainly brought the same frightening intensity to this more mainstream flick about there being much more wrong with a family's new cookie-cutter home than a cracked foundation. *The Frida Cinema; thefridacinema.org. Fri., 11 p.m. $7-$10.*

The Angry Birds Movie. It's an outdoor screening of the animated flick from last year about mysterious green piggies making outcast birds Red (Jason Sudeikis), Chuck (Josh Gad) and Bomb (Danny McBride) angry. Thus, the title. See the instructions on how to enjoy the movie in the *Blue Hawaii* entry. *Orange County Great Park, (949) 724-6247. Sat., dusk (but arrive sooner for a prime spot). Free.*

The Maltese Falcon. The 1941 film noir by then-first-time director John Huston, who based his script on Dashiell Hammett's 1929 novel of the same name, is about San Francisco private investigator Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) taking a large retainer to find the sister of his femme fatale client Ruth Wonderly (Mary Astor). What follows in Frida's Classics-Film Noir series selection is much confusion and a healthy dose of creepy courtesy of Peter Lorre and Sydney Greenstreet, who would team up with Bogey the following year in *Casablanca. The Frida Cinema; thefridacinema.org. Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

The Rocky Horror Picture Show. The car of sweethearts Brad and Janet (Barry Bostwick and Susan Sarandon) breaks down near the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), a transvestite scientist whose home also hosts a rocking biker (Meat Loaf), a creepy butler (Richard O'Brien) and assorted freaks who include a muscular man named "Rocky." Watch what's on and in front of the screen thanks to the Midnight Insanity shadow cast. *Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Sat., 11:55 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

1967 In Film: A Fifty-Year Retrospective. Local author and film enthusiast Robert James—known for the "Who Won?!? An Irreverent Look at the Oscars" series—discusses one of the greatest years in film history. Cross your celluloid fingers he brings clips. *Cypress Library, 5331 Orange Ave., Cypress, (714) 826-0350. Sat., 2 p.m. Free.*

Jaws. Now here is the Steven Spielberg movie that so infiltrated pop culture it spawned many imitators, started blockbuster thinking inside Hollywood studios and turned a little piece of John Williams' music that played whenever the killer Great White was around into the Universal Tune for Foreboding, in any situation. Dollars to doughnuts that if the current shark infestation along the Orange Coast gets worse this summer, our fearless leaders will look the other way as Amity Islands' did. *Regency South Coast Village, 1561 Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701. Sun., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring. It is with much delight that I bestow a feeling to many of you that I experienced the first time I heard U2 on an oldies radio station: The first film, from 2001, in director Peter Jackson's franchise based on the Tolkien books, is now billed as a classic. In a small village in the shire, young Hobbit Frodo (Elijah Wood) has been entrusted with an ancient ring. He must embark on an epic quest to the Cracks of Doom to destroy it. *Regency Directors Cut Cinema at Rancho Niguel, 25471 Rancho Niguel Rd., Laguna Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Tues., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

Blazing Saddles. Returning as part of Frida's Directors Series is Mel Brooks' comedy that is rightly considered among the funniest movies of all time. The new black sheriff of Rock Ridge (Cleavon Little), his gunslinger-turned-drunk sidekick (Gene Wilder) and the "salt of the earth . . . morons" inhabiting a frontier town battle baddies bent on clearing everyone out for a new railroad—and a classic pie fight. *The Frida Cinema; thefridacinema.org. Wed.-Thurs., May 31-June 1, 8 p.m. $7-$10.*

History as Visual Splendor: Nostalgia as Ideological Colonization in Bollywood Films. Ruhi Khan, a professor of media and cultural studies at UC Riverside, gives a talk and shows videos in this UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture event. *UC Irvine, Humanities Gateway (HG) 1030, Campus and West Peltason drives, Irvine, (949) 824-6117. Thurs., June 1, 9:30 a.m. Free.*

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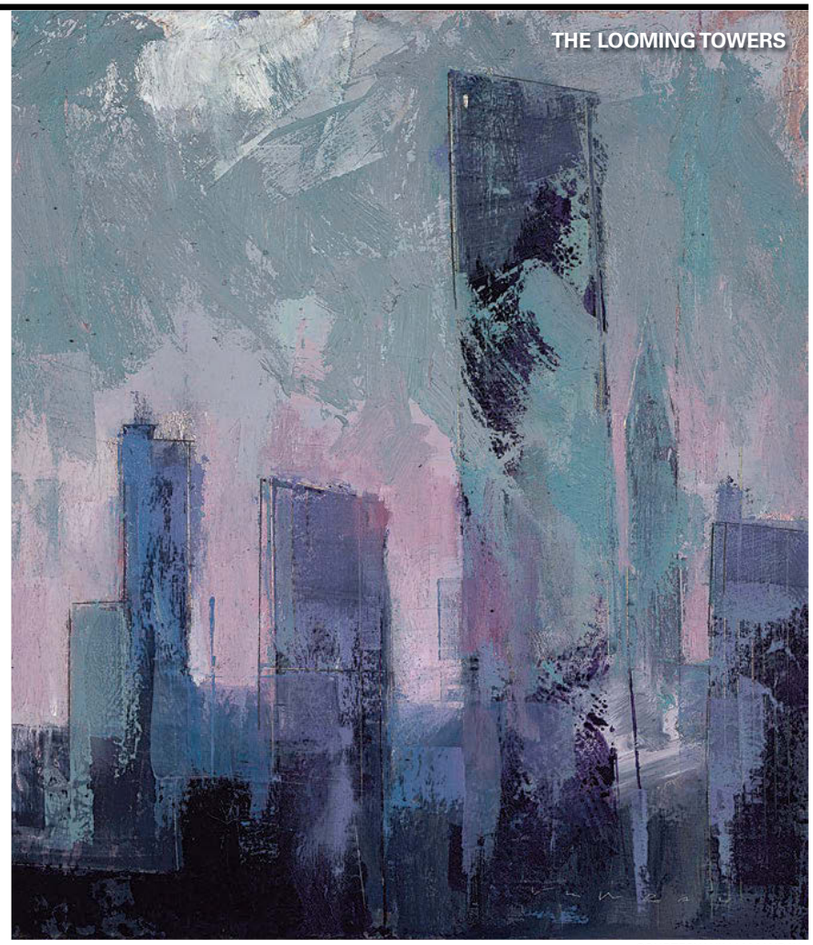
The *Fight Club* of Painters

William Wray's seemingly straightforward building portraits tell a deeper story

BY DAVE BARTON

There isn't one person in artist William Wray's urban landscape solo show at Sue Greenwood Fine Art. It seems appropriate, the artist giving more attention to the skyscrapers, trailer parks, houses and cityscapes; by focusing on the buildings, he's giving the routine we might not otherwise notice a gravity, a personality, that would disappear altogether if human beings were introduced into the mix.

Curated by gallery owner Sue Greenwood, "William Wray: New Work" is showing in only one room and a front window, and that's more than enough. The meditative quality of the architectural portraits asks us to take our time with them, and more work would interfere with that, giving us too much to take in and look at. Blocked in complementary colors, Wray's paintings are completely alien from what we would expect from standard brick and mortar: A square of teal amid a pastel yellow on one side of a building, another side in dark blue and purple shadow, bleeding down into the traffic on the street below (*SF #2*). There are no faces or figures in the cars; the buses, delivery trucks and sedans as boxy as the yolky gold of the building behind them, a small rectangle of ruby red suggesting the signal light on a passing car. That color—and the two smudges of abstract birds at the top of a streetlight—is the only life in what otherwise could be looked at as a place of desolation.


THE LOOMING TOWERS

COURTESY WILLIAM WRAY

Wray's ruler-straight lines are plentiful, sharp enough to inform what we're looking at, but expressionistic enough that the work doesn't do any hand-holding. As much a carving as a painting, the oil-on-wood *Phenomenon* has thin strips of color cut out of its soft blue paint, the outline of a faraway city that glows with the same orange streaks that haunt the sky. In *Congregation*, we can see the faint suggestion of windows in a clump of buildings, the pale glass scraped out of the thick paint with the artist's palette knife; it's a city full of the moldy orange and gray of dead tree leaves, an autumn heap waiting for a fire to wipe it from memory. Bold brushstrokes of muddy purple, pink and gray are used to powerful effect, giving us a series of foreboding skyscrapers in *Crystal City* that resemble grave markers instead of buildings.

The canvases are full of these suggestive shapes and colors: In the tiny cityscape at bottom right of *LA Sunset*, a blimp hovers in the yellow and whites, while above is a polluted clot of rusted clouds in the steel blue sky. A square blast of solid white registers as light reflecting off a storefront window (*Enterprise*); the ad on a billboard is a gray-and-red block of paint, ads seen from farther away a blur of white and beige (*Suburbia*); the crisscross of languorously draped telephone wires disappearing off canvas, opposite streaks of green staircase bannisters (*Pulpit*). It took me several moments to put together what I was looking at in *Ledge*. At first, I saw the dock of an empty warehouse, then the smoking pinks and purples in the sky resembled remnants of a fire. Finally, I saw the stripped-down image of a two-story home and have no concrete idea what I'm looking at.

Wray's work isn't limited to the urban, either, as at home in an exquisitely tragic Salton Sea mobile-home park as he is in an alleyway. *Bombay Beach*'s unassuming capture of aqua, turquoise and teal homes roasting amid the sun-bleached desert oranges and sharp whites is as marvelous as his contemplation of the filthy asphalt, eye-like alley windows, and the mysterious brown ooze that's dripping off a fence near a trash bin in *Back Alley, Monrovia*. Wray even channels Hitchcock in *Wake the Flood*, the image angled at a tilt, as if the dilapidated buildings pictured are being poured out onto the floor; the sky dim, thin and spotty, the ground water-damaged, the no-longer-solid earth losing its capacity to support.

I don't think it's hyperbole to offer up the idea that Wray is the *Fight Club* of painters, the quiet grandeur of his cities suggesting they've been battered into submission by time, abuse and the elements. Wray's brush loves every bruise in the blues and purples, the fresh slap and the enflamed skin of the soft pinks and glaring reds, the explosion of white and yellow light that bounces from the walls and roofs in the middle of the day like the shower of stars that occurs after a punch in the face.

"WILLIAM WRAY: NEW WORK"
at Sue Greenwood Fine Art, 330 N. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 494-0669; www.suegreenwoodfineart.com. Open Tues.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through June 30. Free.

TRENDZILLA
» AIMEE MURILLO

The World in Laguna

The quiet, elderly fellow tending the store at Jewel of Asia in Laguna Beach noticed my presence when I wandered in recently and wrangled me into a conversation. He balked at the idea of having his store written about for an article—a Trendzilla first! But I was able to pull this info out of him: His name is Kazeem, and he opened Jewel of Asia in this spot more than 20 years ago. Kazeem moved to the United States in 1981 from Afghanistan, eventually settled in Laguna Beach and still runs a similar store in his home country. He goes back and forth every once in a while and travels to different countries to collect more of his decorative inventory.

And a great inventory he has. While the shop carries candles and salt lamps made domestically, there are also hand-sewn tapestries, wraps and blankets from India; ornate jewelry boxes, worldly rings, necklace chains, pendants and other jewelry; downsized religious statues made of marble; and numerous types of stone and historical objets d'art such as prized, antique pistols made with quality silver. You can find his candles, salt lamps, crystals, sterling-silver jewelry and Laughing Buddha statues anywhere, but the same is not true of the rare Byzantine, Tibetan and Egyptian jewelry, as well as 18-karat gold-plated jewelry (the U.S. standard is 14 karats). Beside the cash register sits a selection of generic sunglasses, in case you wanted to walk down to the beach after.

Overall, Jewel of Asia is like a less sanitized World Market, with a wider scope of authentic imports. And as a deeper sign of Kazeem's Old World personality, there's no website or social-media presence, which means a personal visit is in order. Even if your tastes in accessories range from modest to embellished, the well-traveled Kazeem is your best guide to learning about global fare, with the kind of friendly demeanor you can't find on the internet.

JEWEL OF ASIA
260 Forest Ave., Ste. 4, Laguna Beach, (949) 376-5332.

AIMEE MURILLO

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EVERY BUSINESS HAS A

STORY

REYKA VODKA
FOR BRUNCH

On March 25, 2017, fifteen-hundred brunch fanatics gathered at Newport Dunes in Newport Beach for OC Weekly's 2nd Annual Fresh Toast event. Of course the unlimited samples being served from local top chefs and eateries was the mainhighlight, but what really accelerated Fresh Toast to the top of everyone's favorite event list, was the Bloody Battle presented by Reyka Vodka.

Reyka Vodka's Bloody Battle featured eight local competitors vying for the title of Best Bloody Mary. The Deck on Laguna Beach, new restaurant Hendrix, Saint Marc, The Hub, ECCO, 90 Pacifica, A&O Kitchen+Bar and returning champ, Backyard Mary Bloody Mary Mix, all created exceptional bloody marys using their own mixes, garnishes and of course, Reyka Vodka.

Reyka Vodka, produced in Iceland using arctic spring water filtered naturally through lava rocks, and its smooth taste and clean character made it the perfect base for the competitor's artful concoctions.

Backyard Mary swooped up Best Bloody Mary for the second year in a row with their perfectly balanced mix, while 90 Pacifica of the Irvine Spectrum DoubleTree wowed attendees for the win of Best Lookin' with their bourbon BBQ pork slider and deviled egg topped samples. Saint Marc took home Most Unique with their "Ghost of Bloody Mary" which was a light pale green made from strained tomato consommé.

As with most of OC Weekly's cocktail contests, the secret judges had differing opinions from the attendee votes. The judges chose ECCO's Blood, Sweat & Tears as the Best Bloody Mary and loved their use of garlic chipotle, parmesan cheese and Mexican duros garnish. Most Unique went to The Deck for their use of Ancho Reyes Verde Liqueur, and Best Lookin' was awarded to A&O Kitchen+Bar for their Sesame Shoyu Bloody garnished with a ahi poke topped wonton chips.

In addition to having eight bloody mary tastings all crafted with the award winning Reyka Vodka, attendees also got to play a virtual reality game where they braved avalanches and polar bears on the way up a mountain to then make the perfect Moscow Mule using Reyka. It was quite the funny experience to watch as a bystander and the players loved the unique experience. It may be argued it was the VR game, or the bloody mary samples or maybe the "Reyka the Garden" cocktails served at the main bar that was Fresh Toast attendee's favorite drink aspect. But what is of no contest, is that Reyka Vodka is now a mainstay of the Orange County brunch scene!

BRAND STORY

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OC WEEKLY'S BRAND STORY
**SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION*

DON'T FORGET YOUR SUNSCREEN, GLENN

PAUL BROWN

The Mother of All Metal Fests

Blackest of the Black Fest is Glenn Danzig's misfit baby

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

It's been almost exactly a year since we found out that the classic lineup of the Misfits—featuring Glenn Danzig, Jerry Only and Doyle Wolfgang Von Frankenstein—would be reuniting to perform at the Riot Fests in Denver and Chicago. Here in Southern California, those festivals seemed far, far away, and it also feels as if the chances of further classic Misfits shows are slim. But we have the next best thing.

The Danzig-organized Blackest of the Black Festival takes over Oak Canyon Park in Silverado on Friday and Saturday. Hardcore veterans Suicidal Tendencies headline on Friday, with Danzig (the band) naturally closing out the festival on Saturday. Bands as prestigious as Corrosion of Conformity, Discharge, Ministry, DevilDriver and Venom Inc. will perform, highlighting a two-day lineup that covers the darker side of metal and punk.

Danzig conceived the event in 2003 after performing with his band at gargantuan European metal festivals for years and wondering why something like that couldn't work in the States. "At the time, I think the only [metal] festival we had here was Ozzfest, and it was all corporate—buy-ons and whatever," he says. "It was nothing like what we do and what they do in Europe. There are so many great festivals in Europe. You get to see so many incredible bands. So I just went about putting together what I felt was an alternative, where you get to see not-so-corporate [bands] and put them all on the same bill. This year, we get to up the ante and do it as a two-day, big, big festival and a carnival."

To retain the authentically underground vibe that Danzig has nurtured since starting Blackest of the Black, he has a hand in many elements of putting the festival together. He draws up a shortlist of bands he wants to perform; any other bands that are put forward by his team have to pass under Danzig's eyes before getting a green light. In the case of Suicidal Tendencies and Corrosion of Conformity, it was an easy decision, as Danzig is old friends with those guys.

According to Corrosion of Conformity guitarist Woody Weatherman, touring with Danzig is always a good time, and this show will be no exception. "Seems like the first time we did some shows with Glenn, it was around 1990, and Soundgarden was on the bill right after us on that tour," says Weatherman, whose band aims to squeeze as many songs as they can into their allotted hour. "Since then, we've had the pleasure of traveling several times together on the road."

The decision to hold the event in Orange County rested at least partly with Danzig, who felt Oak Canyon Park offered the opportunity to do everything he and his team wanted to do. That includes Castle Danzig, the non-musical entertainment at the festival and a sort of twisted, horror-themed fun house. Attendees can be strapped up and locked in a padded cell, get locked in stocks, and/or more. "That's gonna be crazy," Danzig says. "I keep getting pictures sent over to approve. This will be my version of a fun house. You have to be over 17 to go in. I can say that [Danzig creation Torture Countess Drukija] is gonna be in the castle in a blood tub. If you're brave enough, you'll probably be able to get a picture with her in the blood tub."

The festival pretty much coincides with the release of the new Danzig album, *Black Laden Crown*. He's excited for the fans to hear it, especially after getting a positive response from the press over the past month or so. It's certainly a solid slab of work: dark and groove-based metal that will delight the band's longtime fans. The subject matter covers everything from horror fiction to the very real political climate that is genuinely scaring many people right now. "So much in the world frustrates me and makes me angry," Danzig says. "The world just gets crazier, and people lose more and more of their freedoms. It's the greatest stuff to write about because I get so angry."

It's been 30 years since Danzig formed his namesake band after the dissolution of his death-rock group Samhain, and while there have been some constants since that time, particularly tonally, the band haven't sat still. "I didn't like that sterile sound on the first couple of records," Danzig says. "Starting with *Danzig III: How the Gods Kill* when I became the producer, I wanted it more representative of what the band sounded like live. That's what I was trying for and just to not do the same record over and over again. Make it interesting, to keep people interested."

Speaking of that beloved third album, this year, the band celebrates the 25th anniversary of that record, which will be reflected in the set. "We'll do five or six tracks from that somewhere in the set in a row," Danzig says. "I still have all the old stage props from *How the Gods Kill*, so I'll put them out onstage, which is pretty wild. We have a couple of old Griffin gargoyles. I think I still have the backdrop, too, so I'll string that up. That'll be cool."

It might not be a Misfits reunion, but we'll take it.

BLACKEST OF THE BLACK
featuring Danzig, Ministry, Suicidal Tendencies, Corrosion of Conformity, Discharge, Atreyu and more, at Oak Canyon Park, 5305 E. Santiago Canyon Rd., Silverado, (714) 563-9778; blackestfest.com. Fri.-Sat., 1:30 p.m. $39-$399. All ages.

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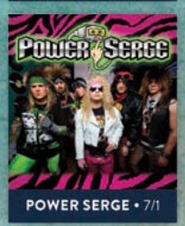

POWER SERGE • 7/1

MARGARITA LA DIOSA
DE LA CUMBIA • 7/6

THE ROOTS • 7/10

QUEREMOS BAILAR!
TRIBUTE PARTY TO SELENA • 7/15
THE COMO LA FLOR BAND

DJ SHADOW • 7/18

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DEAD KENNEDYS • 7/22
JFA • THE DETOURS
CORRUPTED YOUTH

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BLACKBERRY SMOKE • 7/26
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LINDSEY BYRNES

What They're Made Of

Despite losing their lead singer, Of Mice and Men soldier on

BY DANIEL KOHN

Losing a band member can be critical, but not damaging. Losing a lead singer, however, can be fatal. Few bands that have lost front men have rebounded to record, much less tour behind material their singer left behind. (Think Genesis and Van Halen.)

Of Mice and Men are quickly proving they're among the exceptions.

During the promotion of last year's *Cold World*, singer Austin Carlile was open about his struggles with Marfan syndrome, a genetic disorder that put his life in jeopardy. Touring became grueling, with the band having to cancel dates so the singer could recuperate. As they saw his health decline, Carlile's band mates had a feeling a change was coming. By the end of 2016, Carlile had left Of Mice and Men and headed to Costa Rica for treatment for Marfan.

The band took a few days to digest the magnitude of Carlile's departure and decide the next steps. Quickly, the foursome concluded that the best way to cope with the lineup change was to get back to work. Holed up in their Huntington Beach studio space, they found themselves immersed in—and even refreshed by—new material.

They debated bringing in another vocalist, but ultimately bassist Aaron Pauley took over. He had been the main singer on tunes such as "Would You Still Be There," "Feels Like Forever" and "Never Giving Up," so while handling all of the vocal duties was laborious, it was not overwhelming.

"This wasn't an easy undertaking," Pauley says. "It wasn't about continuing on for the name's sake or the brand. For us, it was to genuinely deliver these songs that mean a lot to us and mean a lot to our fans. It didn't feel right to bring someone else in to replace [Carlile] because he's irreplaceable."

During those jam sessions, a couple of new songs emerged. "Unbreakable" and "Back to Me" are just as thunderous and heavy as anything the metalcore outfit released with Carlile. "These two new songs got us through the emotional turmoil," Pauley explains. "It allowed us to feel reinvigorated and to feel that passion that we sing about in 'Back to Me.' At the same time, it comes from a genuine place that we feel. That's the underwritten language of music that fans connect with."

Pauley seems to have adapted well to his new role, but it hasn't been without some minor inconveniences and pitfalls. "The hardest adjustment I've had is not choking to death on my hair when I'm singing," he admits. "There isn't as much time for me to step away and shoo the hair out of my face since I'm singing all the time. There's been a few occasions when we're playing outdoors, and the wind changes direction, and I've got half of my hair in my mouth, and I'm gagging."

Having faced a potentially career-ending crossroads, Of Mice and Men are anxious to keep moving forward.

"It's like professional wrestling in a way," the singer says. "It's like when someone throws you into the ropes, I think you have a choice to get hit, fall out and get back in the ring and bounce back. That's what we did, and it didn't come without fear or apprehension. Music is all we have, and we closed our eyes and helped each other through it and believed. So far, it's been awesome."

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AB-SOUL — SAT, MAY 27
VALLIS ALPS — CONSTELLATION ROOM SAT, MAY 27
the SONICS — SUN, MAY 28
ANIMAL FLAG — SUN, MAY 28
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DLD — TUE, MAY 30
MOUNT KIMBIE — CONSTELLATION ROOM TUE, MAY 30
ALBOROSIE & YELLOWMAN — WED, MAY 31
SiR — CONSTELLATION ROOM WED, MAY 31
Yngwie Malmsteen — THU, JUNE 1
EIGHTEEN VISIONS — FRI, JUNE 2
BALLYHOO! — FRI, JUNE 2
BOTNEK — CONSTELLATION ROOM FRI, JUNE 2
ANDRE NICKATINA / MICKEY AVALON — SAT, JUNE 3
GLARE — THE DJ SETS — CONSTELLATION ROOM SAT, JUNE 3
vulf — SUN, JUNE 4
GOODBYE JUNE / BADFLOWER — SUN, JUNE 4
BOOGARINS — CONSTELLATION ROOM TUE, JUNE 6
FATAL JAMZ — CONSTELLATION ROOM WED, JUNE 7
SKATING POLLY — WED, JUNE 7

MORE UPCOMING SHOWS!
6/8 – XXXTENTACION - 8PM & 11PM
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6/9 – KEVIN DEVINE
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6/10 – MACK 10 & WC
6/10 – SOUTHSIDE (808 MAFIA)
6/11 – DJ PREMIER
6/12 – SLOW HOLLOWS
6/14 – FATAL JAMZ
6/14 – COSMONAUTS
6/15 – JUICY J
6/15 – BIG D AND THE KIDS TABLE
6/15 – BOOTLEG RASCAL
6/16 – BARRINGTON LEVY - $5 SHOW!

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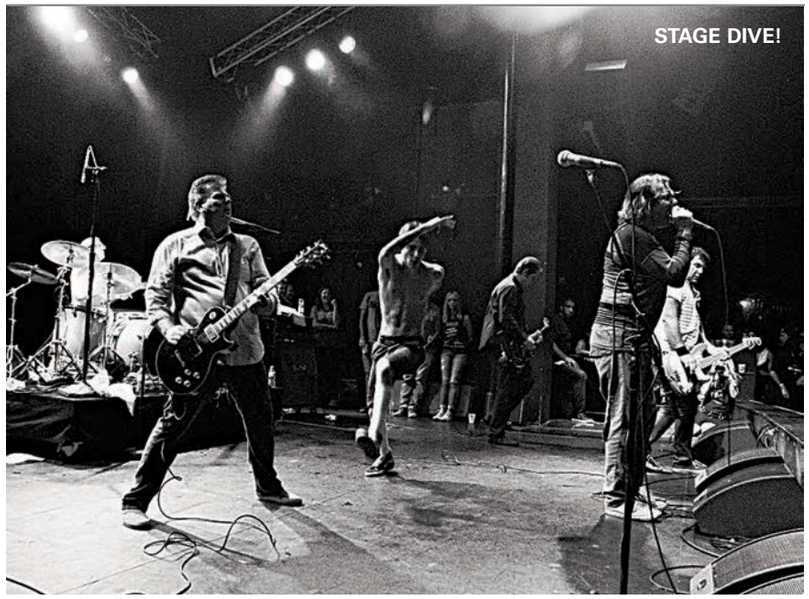


JOHN GILHOOLEY

Proud OGs of OC Punk

THE CROWD perform with the Vandals, Street Dogs, Screw 32 and Line Cutters at the Punk Rock Bowling club show at Fremont Country Club, 601 E. Fremont, Las Vegas, (702) 382-6601; www.fremontcountryclublasvegas.com. Fri., 8 p.m. $20. 21+.

After close to 40 years of being Huntington Beach's native punk-rock band, the Crowd still have a few tricks up their sleeve. In support of their latest record, *Surf Ghetto Riot*—which ended up as a compilation after the band realized they didn't have enough new material for a full album—vocalist Jim Decker, guitarist Jim Kaa and the rest of the Crowd managed to land a pair of shows at Punk Rock Bowling this weekend.

"It'll be fantastic," Decker says. "We're playing with the Vandals on Friday night, then we're playing a pool party on Monday with the Dickies, and then I'm doing some Punk Rock Karaoke on Monday night before we leave on Tuesday. It's going to be an eventful weekend."

"We've been playing shows with the Dickies literally since '79 or '80 at the Whisky [a Go Go in LA] when we first started," Kaa adds. "To be able to play with them on Memorial Day at a pool party in Vegas—I'm not a young guy anymore, but that certainly appeals to me from a cold-beer-and-a-shot standpoint to play that kind of good-time show."

The Crowd happen to be friends with pretty much every SoCal punk band from right around 1980. After decades of growing and evolving as both people and musicians, Kaa and Decker look back and laugh on their near-lifelong relationships with everyone from the Adolescents to X. Of course, they weren't all necessarily friends back in the day. "When we first met the Adolescents in 1980 or whatever, they were the competition," Kaa says with a laugh. "We've been friends with them, TSOL and many many other bands for 40 years now. I don't think any of us imagined that that's what would happen. Being part of that Orange County scene from '79 to '82, it was just a magical time. To play shows with them now and see people our age there, their kids there, and teenagers rocking out, it's a good feeling."

"The really cool thing about everyone who was around during the early days and is still around now is that we're all really good friends," Decker adds. "I can not see some of these guys for six years, and then run into them, and it's like I saw them a week ago. It's a good camaraderie from the old-timers who are still plodding along."

Of course, the Crowd wouldn't keep performing and recording if they thought they didn't have anything left to bring to the table. The generation of bands that served as the Big Bang of SoCal punk is still going strong, and the H.B. quintet's most recent shows are still a perfect example of that wave. If you ask anyone who was there, the magic of the first generation of sunshine and punk blending together for the first time may never be captured again. "There'll never be anything like those first four years of Southern California punk rock ever again," Decker says.

"It's different now, but there are still bands like FIDLAR and the Garden who are continuing those traditions," Kaa adds. "FIDLAR is so good. They're a good band that writes good songs. I saw them at that When We Were Young festival with my daughter, and it was such a good feeling for me to see them rock and the crowd go off because while I didn't directly influence their band, we influenced the bands that influenced them and other bands like them. That's a great feeling."

LocalsOnly
» JOSH CHESLER

Hey, Orange County/Long Beach musicians & bands! Mail your music, contact info, high-res photos & impending show dates for possible review to: Locals Only, *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Or email your link to: localsonly@ocweekly.com.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY

CELTIC WOMAN: 7:30 p.m., $49. Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787; scfta.org.
GIUDA: 8 p.m., $12-$15. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292; alexsbar.com.
HUNNY; GATEWAY DRUGS; KID BLOOM: 8 p.m., $15. Constellation Room at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; constellationroom.com.
INANIMATE EXISTENCE; DEPTHS OF HATRED: 8 p.m., $10-$15. DiPiazza's Restaurant & Lounge, 5205 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, (562) 498-2461; dipiazzas.com.
RELEASE THE BATS: 9 p.m., $5. Que Sera, 1923 E. Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 599-6170; queseralb.wix.com.
RITUAL: EDM DJs, 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580; kitschbar.com.
RON KOBAYASHI: 10 p.m., free. Bayside Restaurant, 900 Bayside Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 721-1222; baysiderestaurant.com.
SEGA GENECIDE: 10 p.m., free. La Cave, 1695 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa, (949) 646-7944; lacaverestaurant.com.
THE VARUKERS; A GLOBAL THREAT: 8 p.m. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; observatoryoc.com.

SATURDAY

AB-SOUL: 8 p.m. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; observatoryoc.com.
BOOTS & BIKINIS COUNTRY MUSIC BEACH PARTY: 4 p.m., free before 10 p.m.; bootsandbikinisoc.com. Baja Beach Cafe, 2332 W. Coast Hwy., Newport Beach, (949) 673-8444; bajabeachcafe.com.
DICK DALE: 8 p.m. The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, Ste. C, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930; thecoachhouse.com.
EPIC SATURDAYS: 9:30 p.m., free. The Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 469-1879; facebook.com/ContinentalRoom.
FLEETWOOD MAC VS. HEART—MIRAGE AND DOG N BUTTERFLY: 8 p.m. Gaslamp Restaurant & Bar, 6251 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, (562) 596-4718; thegaslamprestaurant.com.
FLOCK OF '80S: 2:30 p.m., free. The Swallow's Inn, 31786 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 493-3188; swallowsinn.com.
HIP-HOP HOORAY: 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580; kitschbar.com.
MADISON GROVE: 9 p.m., free. Harvey's Steakhouse, 6060 Warner Ave., Huntington Beach, (714) 842-5111; harveyssteakhouse.com.
MORE LIFE MORE EVERYTHING—A DRAKE TRIBUTE PARTY: 9 p.m., $10. The Parish at House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim; houseofblues.com/anaheim.
NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK: 7 p.m., $85. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583; houseofblues.com/anaheim.
VALLIS ALPS: 9 p.m. Constellation Room at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; constellationroom.com.

SUNDAY

THE ADICTS: 7 p.m., $25. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583; houseofblues.com/anaheim.
APOLLO BEBOP BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH: 8 a.m., free. The Gypsy Den, 125 N. Broadway Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 835-8840; gypsyden.com.
EXPANDING OC HIP-HOP: 8 p.m., free. Doll Hut, 107 S. Adams St., Anaheim, (714) 533-1286.
FULLY FULLWOOD REGGAE SUNDAYS: 3 p.m., $5. Don the Beachcomber, 16278 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, (562) 592-1321; donthebeachcomber.com.
HONEYHONEY: 8:30 p.m., $15. The Federal Bar, 102 Pine Ave., Long Beach, (562) 435-2000; lb.thefederalbar.com.
KENDRICK LAMAR NIGHT: 9 p.m., free. The Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 469-1879; facebook.com/ContinentalRoom.
MODEST MOUSE: 8 p.m., $44.50. Fox Theater Pomona, 301 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, (877) 283-6976; foxpomona.com.
SOME GIFTS; FIREMELON; NOPE: 9 p.m., free. The Republic Fullerton, 912 Williamson Ave., Fullerton, (714) 213-8068.
THE SONICS WITH THE AVENGERS: 8 p.m., $5. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; observatoryoc.com.
SUNDAY BLUES: 4 p.m. Malarkey's Grill & Irish Pub, 168 N. Marina Dr., Long Beach, (562) 598-9431.
WORLD FAMOUS GOSPEL BRUNCH AT HOUSE OF BLUES ANAHEIM: 10:30 a.m., $45. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583; houseofblues.com/anaheim.

MONDAY

COUNTRY DANCIN' WITH DJ PATRICK: 6:30 p.m., free. The Swallow's Inn, 31786 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 493-3188; swallowsinn.com.
DJ FLACO: 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580; kitschbar.com.
DOUG LACY: 6 p.m., free. Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen, 1590 S. Disneyland Dr., Anaheim, (714) 776-5200; rbjazzkitchen.com.
HEPCAT; THE SLACKERS: 8 p.m., $30. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; observatoryoc.com.

TUESDAY

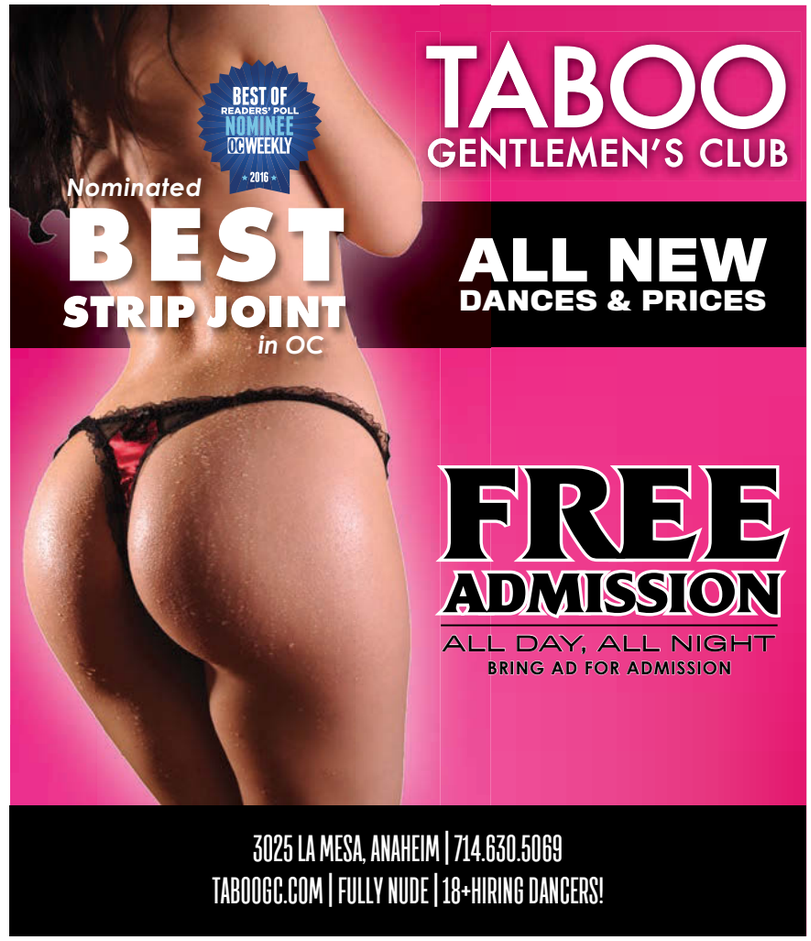
DLD: 8 p.m. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; observatoryoc.com.
MIC DANGEROUSLY: 8 p.m., free. Gallagher's Pub & Grill, 2751 E. Broadway, Long Beach, (562) 856-8000; gallagherslongbeach.com.
MOUNT KIMBIE: 9 p.m. Constellation Room at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; constellationroom.com.
OLD SCHOOL HIP-HOP/R&B NIGHT: 7 p.m., free. Pie Society, 353 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 313-6335; piesocietybar.com.

WEDNESDAY

ALBOROSIE & YELLOWMAN: 8 p.m., $5. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; observatoryoc.com.
BACK CATALOG: 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580; kitschbar.com.
BLUES WEDNESDAYS: 8 p.m., $5. Mozambique, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-7777; mozambiqueoc.com.
DEREK BORDEAUX BAND: 7 p.m., free. Original Mike's, 100 S. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 550-7764; originalmikes.com.
HIP-HOP WEDNESDAY: 9 p.m., free. The Karman Bar, 26022 Cape Dr., Laguna Niguel, (949) 582-5909; thekarmanbar.com.
MODERN DISCO AMBASSADORS: 10 p.m. La Cave, 1695 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa, (949) 646-7944; lacaverestaurant.com.
SIR: 9 p.m., $15. Constellation Room at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; constellationroom.com.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

ANDREW BLOOM: 7:30 p.m., $5. Mozambique, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-7777; mozambiqueoc.com.
DIVE CLUB: 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580; kitschbar.com.
DOUG LACY: 6 p.m., free. Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen, 1590 S. Disneyland Dr., Anaheim, (714) 776-5200; rbjazzkitchen.com.
LUKAS NELSON AND PROMISE OF THE REAL: 8 p.m. The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, Ste. C, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930; thecoachhouse.com.
STRICTLY COUNTRY THURSDAYS: 6 p.m., $5 cover after 8 p.m. Gaslamp Restaurant & Bar, 6251 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, (562) 596-4718; thegaslamprestaurant.com.
YNGWIE MALMSTEEN: 8 p.m. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; observatoryoc.com.



UPCOMING SEX EDUCATION EVENTS

THURS. MAY 25TH @ 7:15PM
HOW TO PERFORM A WORLD CLASS BLOWJOB
This workshop is open to women only. In this workshop you will learn tips and techniques for amazing blowjobs and handjobs! This workshop always sells out, so RSVP early!

THURS. JUNE 1ST @ 7:15PM
BUTT BASICS: PLEASURABLE ANAL PLAY
This workshop will focus on anal play for both men and women. Anal play can be very pleasurable when done correctly. We will learn how to have the best experiences while playing safely while covering anal sex as well as anal toys and prostate play.

CALL OR STOP BY DURING BUSINESS HOURS TO RSVP. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED. TICKETS ARE $15 PER PERSON OR $25 PER COUPLE WHEN PREPAID AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE. IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE, TICKETS ARE $25 PER PERSON ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT.

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Breathless

I have two female sex partners who want to be breath-play dominated. I know the practice is dangerous, and I employ the rules of consent and communication a pro-Dom escort friend taught me. But is there a legal release document we could sign that protects consenting adults in the event of an accident or death?
Ruminating About Consensual Kinks

Restricting someone's air intake is always dangerous, RACK, and while we all too often hear about people dying during solo breath play, a.k.a. "autoerotic asphyxiation" (*an activity no one should engage in ever*), we rarely hear about someone dying during partnered breath play. (I recently discussed partnered breath play with Amp from Watts the Safeword, a kink-friendly sex-ed YouTube channel. Look up Episode 533 at savagelovecast.com.)

That said, RACK, someone can't consent to being strangled to death by accident.

"The lawyers in my office discussed this, and we agree that there is no way to 'waive' or 'consent to' criminal negligence resulting in substantial bodily harm or death," said Brad Meryhew, a criminal-defense attorney who practices in Seattle. "I don't think you'll find any lawyer who would draft such an agreement. Even if an agreement were executed, it is not going to constitute a complete defense if something goes wrong. There are principles of criminal liability for the consequences of our decisions, as well as public-policy concerns about people engaging in extremely dangerous behaviors, that make it impossible to just walk away if something goes wrong." Another concern: Signing such a document could make breath play more dangerous, not less. "A person who had such a waiver might be tempted to push the boundaries even further," said Meryhew.

And now the pro-Dom perspective . . .

"As consenting adults, we assume the risks involved in this type of kink," said Mistress A Elena, a professional Dominant. "But if you harm your partner or they become scared, shamed, shocked or, even worse, gravely injured, it's the Dom's problem. At any time, the submissive can change their mind. Some cases have been classified as 'rape' or 'torture' afterward, even though consent was initially given. It's our job as Dominants/Tops/Leads to make sure everyone is safe, consenting and capable."

My college girlfriend and I were together for four years. The relationship ended 10 years ago when she cheated on me. She did eventually marry the guy, so, hey, good for them. She recently gave birth to a boy. She gave her son my name as his middle name. Nobody in either family has this name, and it isn't an especially common name. I've asked dozens of people with kids, and nobody can think of a reason why a person would give their child a name anywhere close to an ex's name. Thoughts?
Nobody's Answers Make Effing Sense

Maybe your college girlfriend remembers you a little too fondly. Maybe a family friend had the same name. Maybe she met someone else with your name in the past 10 years, and she and her husband had a few threesomes with that guy, and she remembers those fondly. Maybe you'll run into her someday and she'll tell you the real reason. Now here are a few definitelys to balance out all those maybes, NAMES: This is definitely none of your business, and you definitely can't do anything about it—people can definitely give their children whatever names they want—and there's definitely no use in stressing out about it.

I'm a 32-year-old guy, my gal is 34, and we've been together for two years. Every time we get it on or she goes down on me (though not when I eat her out), my mind wanders to fantasies involving porno chicks, exes or local baristas. A certain amount of this is normal, but I'm concerned that this now happens every time. When I'm about to come, I shift my mind back to my partner, and we have a hot climax, but I feel guilty. Advice?
Guilty Over Nebulous Ecstasy

I've been asked what biases advice columnists have. Do we favor questions from women? (No, women are just likelier to ask for advice.) Are we more sympathetic to women? (Most advice columnists are women, so . . .) Are we likelier to respond to a question that opens with a compliment? (Of course.) But the solvable problem is our biggest bias. Some people write in with problems that they'll need an exorcist, a special prosecutor, a time machine or some combo of all three to solve. I could fill the column week after week with unsolvable problems, and my answers would all be variations on ¯_(ツ)_/¯.

Your letter, GONE, is a good example of the solvable problem—a letter likelier to make it into the column—and, as is often the case, the solution to your problem is right there in your letter. You're able to "shift [your] mind" back to your partner when you're about to come, and when you eat her out, your mind doesn't wander at all. My advice: Make the shift earlier/often and engage in more activities that force you to focus (such as eating her out). Problem solved.

P.S. A lot of people allow their mind to wander a bit during sex—supplementing the present sensations with memories, fantasies, local baristas, etc. If it keeps you hard/wet/game and isn't perceptible (if you don't start mumbling coffee orders), your partner benefits from your wanderings.

I've been reading your column forever—like "Hey Faggot!" forever—and your response to CLIF (the guy whose wife could no longer orgasm from PIV sex after having a child) is the first time I've felt the need to gripe about your advice. My wife was also the "Look, ma, no hands!" type, and it was amazing to be able to look into her eyes as we came together. But after a uterine cyst followed by a hysterectomy, something changed, and that came to an end. It was a pretty hard hit for us sexually and emotionally. Toys, oral, etc. had always been on the table, but more as part of being GGG than as the main source of her coming. For a long time, it put her off sex as a source of her own pleasure. Things have gotten much better, but I'd be lying if I said we didn't occasionally talk wistfully about that time in our relationship. I can empathize with what CLIF is going through. When we went through this, we did research and spoke with doctors wondering the same thing: Is there some way to reclaim that PIV-and-her-orgasms connection. We even thought of writing you, the wise guru of all things sex, but am I glad we didn't. In response to CLIF asking for some fairly simple advice, you bluntly said that it's not a problem that she can't come from PIV sex. You ignored the fact that up until fairly recently, she could. Then you suggest that because he hasn't mastered the subtle art of acronyms, he might be a shitty lover whose wife has been faking orgasms for years and is just tired of it. Dick move, Dan.
A Callous Response Only Negates Your Motivation

You're right, ACRONYM, my response to CLIF was too harsh. But as you discovered, there wasn't a way for you and your wife to reclaim that PIV-and-her-orgasms connection. So CLIF would do well to take Dr. Gunter's advice and embrace how his wife's body works *now* and not waste too much time grieving over how her body/PIV orgasms used to work *then*.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), Nathaniel Frank on the marriage-equality movement. Contact Dan via email at mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter (@fakedansavage), and visit ITMFA.org.*

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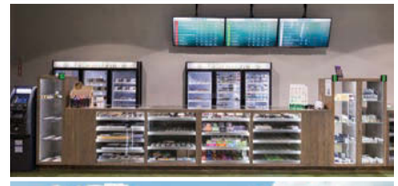

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Chemical Engineer Recon Engineering & Construction, Inc. is hiring in Los Alamitos. Must have at least 2 years of progressive experience as a Chemical Engineer. Assess chemical equipment and processes to improve performance while ensuring compliance with safety and environmental regulations. Full-time. Mail Resume to P.O. Box 93120, Long Beach, CA 90809

Sr. SAP MM Consultant, MS deg. in CIS, IT, MIS or related & 1 yr exp. Exp. in Supply Chain Optimization. Skills: SAP MM, Tableau Reporting & Analysis ,VBA, SQL, MS Visio, Six Sigma Methodology. Travel &/or reloc. throughout the US req'd. Mail resume to Morris & Willner Partners, Inc., 201 Sandpointe Ave, Ste. 200, Santa Ana, CA, 92707

Software Engineer (Multiple Openings) to develop, implement and maintain client-server applications and business logic layers using Microsoft Visual Studio, Microsoft SQL, Server and stored procedures. Code software components in C#, C++, Visual Basic, NET, SQL, and related scripting languages. Perform web development using HTML5, JavaScript, and related technologies. Requires Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. Job site and interview: Irvine, CA. Mail your resume to Human Resources at Prism Software Corporation at 15500-C Rockfield Blvd. Irvine, CA 92618.

Market Research Analyst Analyze statistical data to forecast future market trends & FPD industry, gather info. re: company customers/competitors, analyze conditions that may impact sales by researching market conditions, changes in industry. Must be able to perform job duties. Bachelor's degree in Economics req'd. Resume: Signet FPD, Inc. 75 Columbia, Aliso Viejo CA 92656.

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Sr. Software Engineering Manager sought by Autobytel Inc. for company's software dvlpmt & delivery efforts for Irvine, CA location. Min. Req.: BS + 5 yrs exp. Please email resume to joselync@autobytel.com

Computer Network Support Specialist (Irvine, CA). Analyze network data to improve website functionality, define network usage and server function. Bachelor's or higher degree in computer science. 1 year experience. Experience may be completed before or after university degree. Resume to Allen Anthonysamy, SOLO Business Systems, Inc., 15041-A Bake Parkway, Irvine, CA 92618.

Development Chef (Oceanside, CA). Develop superfood recipes that are rich in compounds considered beneficial to a person's health and vitality. 2 years of experience as Head Chef. Mail resume to Mark Olson, CEO, Chemi-Source, Inc., 2665 Vista Pacific Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056.

CFO (Garden Grove, CA) Supervise employees performing financial reporting, accounting, billing, collections, payroll&budgeting duties; Coordinate&direct the financial planning, budgeting, procurement/investment activities of all/part of an organization; Develop internal control policies, guidelines&procedures for activities such as budget administration, cash&credit management/accounting. 40 hrs/wk, Bachelor's in Business Administration or related req'd and Min 5 yrs of experience as a CFO or related req'd. Resume to Chun-Ha Insurance Services, Inc. Attn. Minsung Ko, 9122 Garden Grove Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92844

Bioinformatics Associate, Irvine, CA. Designing analysis strategies, algorithms, and tools for genome-wide DNA methylation and next-generation sequencing, MS in Bioinformatics & 1 yr experience. Mail resume to Angela Kim, HR Mgr, Zymo Research Corporation, 17062 Murphy Ave., Irvine, CA 92614.

Project Manager (Master's degree w/ 5 yrs exp or Bachelor's degree w/ 7 yrs exp; Major: CS, Engg, Math or equiv.; Other suitable qualifications acceptable) – Irvine, CA. Job entails working w/ & exp to incl 3 yrs as a PMO Manager or Head. Exp in using PMP standards & protocols, MS Project, MS Project Server, Visio, AnyChart, WBSPro, Celoxis, Resource Guru, FinancialForce PSA, FastTrack Schedule, MS Windows Server 2008, Excel & Powerpoint to build complex Macros & Pivot tables, JIRA, CA Technologies Open Workbench, SmartSheet, Microsoft Onepager Pro, WorkPlan by Sescoi, OmniPlan, Artemis Project view, Open VMS & TCP/IP. Relocation & travel to unanticipated locations w/in USA possible. Send resumes to HTN Wireless Inc., Attn: HR, 20 Truman St, Suite 211, Irvine, California 92620.

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Landscape Architectural Drafter: Prepare landscape architectural designs. Req'd: BA in Landscape Architecture or related. Mail resume to Lifescapes International, Inc., 4930 Campus Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Software Engineer Jobsite Newport Beach, CA, apply to HR at Phunware, Inc., tnolazco@phunware.com.

Ericsson Inc. Customer Project Manager, Irvine, CA. Telecomm & RF Eng project & Financial Mgmt. Up to 10% domestic travel required. Mail resume to Ericsson Inc. 6300 Legacy Drive, R1-C12 Plano, TX 75024, Job #17-CA-3581.

Turbo Ion, Inc. located in Buena Park is looking for a Vice President of Business Development to add to our team. Applicants must have at least three years experience and completed a bachelor degree in business and/or finance and knowledge of the beauty industry. Please send a cover letter and resume to Elyssia Musolino at 6800 8th Street, Buena Park, CA 90620.

Montessori Teacher: Teach kindergarteners using Montessori methods; 40hrs/wk; Send resume to LePort Schools, Attn: Jean Chung, 1 Technology Dr., Bldg H, Irvine, CA 92618

Certified Public Accountant (Irvine, CA) Perform financial statement audits for CPA firm clients. California CPA license req'd. Resume to: PK LLP, 2100 Main St., #200, Irvine, CA 92614.

Community Service Manager: f/t; Nonprofit Community Org.; Perform Community Service mgr's duty; M.A. in Social Work or Related; Place of Employment: 7212 Orangethorpe Ave., Ste 9A, Buena Park, CA 90621; Resume: Korean Community Services, Inc. @ 8633 Knott Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620

Market Research Analyst:
Apply by mail only to Pacmet International, Inc., 26040 Acero, #214, Mission Viejo, CA 92691, attn. President.

Administrative Assistant: Perform admin. assistant functions, answer calls, provide info to clients, process mails/emails, draft letters/invoices, record info into database. Req'd: Bachelor's in Business Admin. or related. Mail Resume: M+D PROPERTIES, 6940 Beach Blvd. #D-501, Buena Park, CA 90621

Market Research Analyst (La Palma, CA) Perform market research/analysis for logistics services. Master's in communication/marketing related. Resume to: Korchina Logistics USA, Inc. 4 Centerpointe Dr. #120, La Palma, CA 90623

Accountant (Anaheim, CA) Perform financial and managerial accounting duties. Master's in Accounting or related req'd. Resume to: Interlog Corp. 1295 N Knollwood Cir, Anaheim, CA 92801

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Business Development Specialist: Conduct market research to identify potential market sales for insurance company. Req'd: Bachelor's in Mktng., Bus. Econ., or related. Mail Resume: Golden Bells Insurance Agency, Inc. 1151 N. Magnolia Ave. #101, Anaheim, CA 92801

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MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST Research market conditions, competitors & forecast sales trends; Master's Degree in related fields; Mail resume to: ACI LAW GROUP, PC (J.J.KIM & ASSOCIATES) Attn: Jin Kim, 6 Centerpointe Dr., Ste. 630, La Palma, CA 90623

Marketing Specialist (Costa Mesa, CA). Conduct market research for sign company. Three years of experience. Experience must include online marketing and cost management. Mail resume to Azadeh Orouji, owner, United Marketing and Advertising, LLC, 3303 Harbor Blvd., Suite E-6, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

Family Support Worker: Research & locate pgms. to assist families with the mentally disabled. Req'd: BA/BS in Social Work, HR, or Bus. Admin. Mail resume: Mental Health Family Mission 9778 Katella Ave. #102 Anaheim, CA 92804

Accountant
B.A. in Acct. or Bus. Admin. req'd. Job Site: Santa Ana, CA 92707. Send resumes to: Ony Glo, Inc., 3250 Wilshire Bl., # 1600, LA, CA 90010, Attn: J. Oh.

Food Services Manager
2 yrs. of college level edu. in Gen. Studies, Mkting, or Advert. req'd. Send resumes to: Jack's Fusion, Inc., 427 E 17th St. Ste. D, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, Attn: J. Cho.

Accountant (Buena Park, CA) Perform accounting duties for food service business. Associate's in Accounting/Business related. Resume to: D&J Ko Ko Inc. 8532 Commonwealth Ave, Buena Park, CA 90621

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